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Libya arrests Abu Nidal

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29. (Agencies): Abu Nidal, the reputed leader of one of the world's most dangerous terrorist groups, has been placed under house arrest in Libya after waging a campaign of assassination against opponents within his own organisation, Arab sources said.

Libyan leader Col. Moammar Khaddafi, who had been under pressure by other Arab governments to break with the Palestinian hard-liner, used the power struggle within Abu Nidal's organisation as a reason to move against him, the sources said.

"The Libyan leader used this struggle and put Abu Nidal under house arrest to improve (Khaddafi's) image with the West, and namely the United States," said one source, who agreed to speak on the condition he be identified only as an Arab source in the Middle East.

An Egyptian source who also requested anonymity said Khaddafi ordered a freeze on "all activities and movement" by Abu Nidal about 20 days ago and then granted the shadowy Palestinian hard-liner the status of a political refugee. The move came amid reports Abu Nidal is seriously ill from cancer, Arab sources said.

"Khaddafi has banned Abu Nidal from moving around and ordered a freeze on his activity," the Egyptian source said. "In return, he has been granted a political refugee status."

US State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Washington could not confirm the report.

Many hard-line followers of Abu Nidal are desirous to join the ranks of the Shiite Muslim Hezbollah, Algerian sources said today.

Abu Nidal is under medical supervision at his home in Libya after the recurrence of a heart ailment, senior Palestine Liberation Organisation officials said.

But his life is not in immediate danger, said two officials, interviewed separately by telephone from the PLO headquarters in the Tunisian capital.

They insisted that reports from Algeria that Abu Nidal was dying of cancer were "inaccurate."

The sources in Algeria, who included an Algerian physician summoned to Tripoli several times in recent weeks, said Abu Nidal's organisation was "in the process of breaking up."

The physician stood firmly by his report of Abu Nidal suffering cancer, but said it was not inconsistent with the leader being held under house arrest. "Maybe both stories are true," he said. He said it made little difference to his followers whether Abu Nidal was incapacitated by reasons of health or political status.

"Whatever the cause of the turmoil within the ranks of Abu Nidal's movement, it is certain that his followers are turning to Hezbollah," the physician said.

A diplomatic source in Algeria, who insisted his name be withheld, agreed that Abu Nidal is losing followers to the extremist Shiite Muslim group.

Suitcase blown up

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 29. (AP): Bomb squad officers blew up a suitcase destined for a Colombian jetliner today after X-rays showed what appeared to be sticks of dynamite wiring and a clock, authorities said.

Police could not immediately say whether the bag contained a bomb.

The item was discovered in luggage that was to have been loaded onto an Avianca Airlines jet bound for Colombia, where drug traffickers have waged a campaign of bombings and assassinations, authorities said.



Final battle?

A Muslim militiaman carries a rocket-propelled grenade launcher behind him and another brandishing a heavy machinegun take up position on Beirut's Green Line battle zone after fears of renewed battles to oust Aoun.

Denard in control Comoros army disarmed

DZAOUZLI, Mayotte, Nov. 29. (Reuters): The mercenary-led Presidential Guard has taken control of the Comoros Islands following the assassination of Ahmed Abdallah and has disarmed the army and gendarmes, diplomats in the capital Moroni said today.

The diplomats, contacted by telephone from the neighbouring French-ruled island of Mayotte, said Abdallah was killed by members of the Presidential Guard with the complicity of Bob Denard, the Frenchman who led the mercenary invasion of the Indian Ocean islands in 1978 which put Abdallah in power.

The reasons for Denard falling out with the president were not immediately known.

The diplomats said that although Said Djohar, the president of the Supreme Court, had officially taken over as acting president, the only man in authority was Denard.

"He is very much in charge of the situation here and when the cabinet meets, he meets with them," one diplomat said.

Denard founded the Presidential Guard and remains the main force behind it.

NEWSWATCH

Two killed in violence: At least two people were killed on Wednesday in violence that erupted following a Soviet parliamentary decision to change the status of the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh, an official in the territory said.

A spokesman for the Moscow-appointed committee currently administering Nagorno-Karabakh gave few details of the disturbances. But he said the two deaths occurred just outside the territory in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

"The people are definitely dead and reports of other deaths are being checked," he said by telephone from the territory's administrative centre, Stepanakert. (Reuters)

(Earlier Report Page 6)

Constitutional changes: Parliament on Wednesday approved constitutional changes to end the Czechoslovak Communist Party's 40-year monopoly on power, and a top party official said free elections could be held within a year.

The 309 deputies present voted unanimously to scrap Article 4 of the Czechoslovak constitution, which mandated the leading role of the Communist Party, and Article 16, which mandated that all education be based on Marxism-Leninism.

The changes were among concessions to opposition demands agreed to at a meeting on Tuesday between Premier Ladislav Adamec and opposition leaders. (AP)

(Earlier Report Page 7)

Serbs call off mass protest: Serbian activists on Wednesday called off a rally in the Yugoslav Republic of Slovenia which politicians feared could lead to bloodshed.

"We are not going to Slovenia," Bogdan Kocman, president of the Bosnian grass-roots Serbian organisation which was organising the rally, told Reuters. (Reuters)

(Earlier Report Page 7)

Save unwanted cats: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed Al Fassi, who left Florida six years ago, has returned with the goal of saving unwanted cats from the demise they usually face after a short stay at a shelter.

"I have strict orders from his royal highness to put aside \$2.5 million for cats," said Victor Talazat, personal adviser to Al Fassi. "We are going to send Asians through the United States to hunt the cats. We are going to recruit people to do this, but they have to be Muslims, they have to have good hearts." (UPI)

Aoun waves olive branch

Christian militia backs general amid war preparations

BEIRUT, Nov. 29. (Agencies): Syria sent more reinforcements into Lebanon today, beefing up troops poised for an imminent thrust into the Christian enclave to oust defiant Gen. Michel Aoun from the presidential palace.

But Aoun said today he was ready to compromise with the new Syrian-backed Lebanese government and denied he has been sacked as army commander.

The Lebanese Forces coalition of Christian militias brushed aside differences with Aoun and announced it would fight alongside his 20,000 soldiers to defend Christian regions.

The Phalange Party, the main right-wing Christian political force which also is at odds with Aoun, pledged to confront any attempt to storm into the 310-square-mile (800-square-kilometre) enclave, comprising East Beirut and the hinterland to the north and northeast.

Meanwhile, 33 right-wing French parliamentarians met with the general at the presidential palace in the East Beirut suburb of Baabda.

In a show of support that contradicted the French government's official stand, the parliamentarians joined thousands of youths who have formed a human shield around the palace to underscore support of Aoun.

French legislator Bernard Bosson said he was "amazed at the flood of masses" at the palace. "This is like the people's movement in Eastern Europe asking for democracy," he said.

The French government has supported newly elected President Elias Hrawi who has fired Aoun as army commander and as head of an interim military cabinet in an attempt to strengthen his central government and reunite the fractured military.

Residents in Chitour, a market town in east Lebanon on the Beirut-Damascus highway, said scores of 122mm and 133mm Syrian artillery guns were being towed toward Beirut and the central mountains above Baabda this afternoon, followed by dozens of trucks filled with ammunition.

Hundreds of empty trucks were headed toward the Syrian border, apparently after unloading troops and equipment.

The residents had reported that about 15,000 troops in 800 trucks moved into Lebanon through the Bekaa valley between Monday night and midday yesterday.

These were accompanied by 90 Soviet-designed tanks, 120 artillery pieces, mine-clearing tanks, armoured personnel carriers and ammunition trucks, they said.

Both Christian and Muslim military sources said the Soviet-designed T-55 Syrian tanks were poised along the Green Line that slices Beirut into Christian and Muslim sectors.

The larger T-62s formed an "arch of fire" directed against Aoun's troops in Souk Al Gharb, a strategic mountainous town that commands the main routes leading to Baabda, they said.

"They are in combat formation. It seems they are only waiting for the orders," one source said.

"It's a significant buildup. The kind of measures that precede a major battle," the Christian military source said.

Samir Geagea, commander of the Lebanese Forces, told a news conference: "I ordered our forces last night to be ready to link up with their comrades of the Lebanese Army in defence of the liberated areas," a reference to regions free of Syrian presence.

"The Lebanese forces fighters will defend the liberated areas until the last minute of their lives," Geagea added.

The Phalange Party's politburo said in a statement: "This is the hour for mobilising all potential without exception to face any attempt to storm the Christian area."

"We shall be in the forward defence lines," it said.

A Christian military source said Aoun's forces have planted thousands of anti-armour and anti-personnel mines in the valleys separating the Christian enclave from Syrian positions.

He said Aoun's forces also have deployed anti-aircraft batteries around "sensitive and strategic locations" to confront a possible landing of air-borne hostile forces.

The general, however, again offered to negotiate a settlement with Syria.

In an interview with the French radio station Europe 1, Aoun said he was willing to reach a compromise with the Syrians.

"I invite France to undertake negotiations toward an end that safeguards the minimum, fundamental rights of the Lebanese people."

But he stressed that he was "ready to compromise and respect the vital interests of Syria, but not cede the fundamental rights of the Lebanese people, above all their right to self-determination, independence and dignity."

Israel's Air Force chief warned Syria today it would risk confrontation with Israel if Syrian warplanes entered Lebanese airspace.

France urged Syria today not to start a battle in Beirut and pledged help for the civilian population if fighting broke out.

Amir warns criminal Israel

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 29. (Kuna): His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad extended his greetings today on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people.

On behalf of Kuwait and in his capacity as chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, the Amir expressed appreciation to the Palestinian rights committee for the sincere efforts and endeavours in backing the Palestinians in their struggle for their rights.

The Amir singled out the Palestinians' right to self-determination over their national soil and an end to their plight and tragedy resulting from Israel's occupation, continued displacement and oppression.

He also reiterated Kuwait's and the OIC's strong condemnation of the blatant Israeli acts against Islamic shrines in holy Al Quds and occupied Arab territories. He warned Israel against the outcome and consequences of this recklessness and criminal defiance of the Muslim nation and its feelings.

The Amir's message was delivered by Kuwait's Permanent Representative Mohammad A. Abdullah.

"The heroes of the Palestinian intifada who are standing fast in the face of brutal occupation are in a dire need for you and for all the efforts and support by those of your kind who advocate righteousness and defend peoples' just causes."

"This is because their battle is one against an arrogant occupier who knows no mercy or fairness, does not observe international law, does not heed world conscience and public opinion, and disregards the resolutions of international legitimacy," he said.

The occupier, the Amir said, is bent on achieving his plots and illusory objectives at the expense, and the ruins, of an entire nation whose rights, land and sovereignty he has denied, whose children he is today slaying, and whose sanctity he is desecrating.

"The prolongation of such a situation for the Palestinian people, and Israel's persistence in its barbaric practices against them obligate all members of the world community to upgrade their support and backing for this rightful cause, so as not to limit themselves to mere slogans in dealing with the Palestinian plight."

"Hence, this significant occasion should not be just a day for delivering statements of solidarity but should be a juncture for launching effective action and positive, constructive contributions to that struggle which culminated with the heroes' intifada."

Weather

CLOUDS will appear with moderate south-easterly winds, may freshen at times, and a chance for rain.

State of sea: Moderate

High water: 2:20 am, 12:00 pm

Low water: 7:30 am, 7:00 pm

Sunrise: 6:24 am

Sunset: 4:49 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 31°C 88°F

Ahmad: 27°C 81°F

Falaka: 28°C 81°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 16°C 61°F

Ahmad: 20°C 68°F

Falaka: 17°C 63°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 30°C 86°F

Ahmad: 28°C 82°F

Falaka: 29°C 84°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 85 per cent

Ahmad: 83 per cent

Falaka: 83 per cent

Full Coverage on Pages 12 & 13



Rajiv meets Venkataraman to submit resignation. (Reuters wirephoto)



V.P. Singh (left) and Advani happy over events. (Reuters wirephoto)

Big win in Amethi

Rajiv thrashes Rajmohan

NEW DELHI, Nov. 29. (Agencies): Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has retained his seat in Parliament with one of the biggest vote margins. He was re-elected for the third time from the northern constituency of Amethi with a massive margin of 201,372 votes.

Rajiv's closest rival, Janata Dal candidate Rajmohan Gandhi — no relation of Rajiv — secured 69,099 votes. Rajiv Gandhi obtained 270,471 votes.

Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, who led India to independence in 1947, had alleged electoral fraud and poll rigging, forcing repolling in parts of the constituency and delayed counting.

Rajiv Gandhi was one of just 12 Congress Party members elected from Uttar Pradesh state as the ruling party suffered massive election reverses across north India and lost its majority in Parliament.

Nadia Comaneci flees, seeks political asylum in Hungary

BUDAPEST, Nov. 29. (Reuters): Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci, gold medal winner at the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal, has fled across the border to Hungary, a government spokesman said today.

Comaneci, 29, and six other Romanians crossed the border between Romania and Hungary near the southeast Hungarian village of Mezogyan last evening, spokesman Andras Kovari told Reuters.

Hungarian radio said Comaneci was seeking political asylum in Hungary but the

Interior Ministry was unable to confirm the report.

She blasted into limelight at the 1975 European Championships where she won gold medals in all gymnastic disciplines except floor exercises.

She was the first gymnast to obtain a perfect 10 score and won the all-round gold medal at the Montreal Games.

Comaneci told Hungarian border guards their trip was planned in advance and they were guided through the border by a Roman-

ian man, the radio said.

Tens of thousands of Romanians unhappy with life under President Nicolae Ceausescu and inspired by political reforms across the border, have fled to Hungary in the past two years.

Comaneci, who retired from competition in 1981, said she left behind a furnished flat, a car and financial security for the sake of freedom, the radio said.

See Page 22

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Life after cancer mostly normal

BOSTON, (UPI)—As more and more people survive cancer, researchers are turning to the question of what life is like after tangle with the dreaded disease.

The answer looks encouraging, with a new study showing that most children overcome cancer go on to lead normal lives.

Overall it's a good news story, said Julianne Byrne, a researcher at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, who conducted the study published recently in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

In the largest such study ever conducted, Byrne and her colleagues interviewed 2,170 people in Connecticut, California, Iowa, Kansas and Texas who had survived cancer when they were children or teenagers.

The researchers then interviewed 3,138 of their brothers or sisters who had not had cancer and compared the two groups in terms of whether they had married or divorced at least five years after being diagnosed.

The assumption was the being married is an indication of a fairly normal life, Byrne said.

"Most people in our society get married," she said. "It's reasonable to assume that marriage is an important indicator of quality of life for most people. Divorce may be an indication of some problem with quality of life."

The reason there is concern is cancer survivors may be left with physical, mental and sexual impairments from their treatment or may be concerned about being at high risk for having children who will develop cancer.

Medical File

Alternatives to prostate surgery: Elderly men who have difficulties urinating because of an enlarged prostate may be able to avoid surgery with two alternative procedures, doctors from the United States and Britain said yesterday.

Up to 60 per cent of men older than age 60 suffer the discomforting symptoms of a narrowed or blocked urinary tract caused by an inflamed prostate, and thousands undergo expensive surgery to reduce the size of the gland.

Surgery can in turn cause impotence and other problems.

The prostate produces a fluid that is a major constituent of semen and when enlarged can cause either retention of urine or incontinence.

Doctors from the US Veterans Administration Medical Centre in Minneapolis using a balloon catheter successfully widened the urinary channels without surgery in 66 per cent of 70 patients between ages 59 and 95. (Reuters)

Drug wins FDA approval: The Food and Drug Administration approved yesterday a new blood clot-dissolving drug for preventing permanent heart damage after a heart attack.

The new product, called anistreplase or eminate, is similar to two clot dissolvers already on the market—Tissue Plasminogen Activator (TPA) and streptokinase. But eminate is designed to circulate in the bloodstream longer than the other drugs, allowing it to be given in a two- to five-minute injection instead of a one- to three-hour infusion.

"There was considerable reason to imagine that this population might be left with what you might call psychic scars," said Byrne.

"They had a close brush with death. It would not be unreasonable to suspect they might be left with psychosomatic difficulties."

But overall, the researchers found the cancer survivors were as likely as their siblings to get married and no more likely

overall to get divorced.

"They probably do and can look forward to the future with as much optimism as their brothers and sisters," said Byrne.

"There are rather few major problems with marriage and divorce in this group overall."

However, the researchers did find there were certain sub-groups among the cancer survivors who did appear to have problems.

People who had cancer of the

brain or nervous system were very much less likely to marry and much more likely to divorce.

The worst group was men who were diagnosed with brain or central nervous system tumors before the age of 10. Their marriage rates were only one-third the rate of the siblings.

"We think this is not so much a psychosomatic problem as a manifestation of the fact that these children had radiation to the brain."

Healer claims cancer, Aids cure: The trial of a highly controversial healer is being followed with fascination by the medical community and millions of Canadians.

Gaston Naessens, a self-styled healer who says his serum can cure everything from rheumatism to cancer to Aids, has spent the last three weeks on the chair of the accused in a courtroom in Sherbrooke, a small town east of Montreal.

Naessens is accused of criminal negligence in the death of one woman and in the case of bodily injuries caused to another. In both cases, he was attempting to heal them with a preparation he invented, called 714X.

Spect to help diagnose Alzheimer's: Naessens said Monday they can now look inside the brain without surgery and see the physical evidence of Alzheimer's disease, schizophrenia and other mental disorders.

The new computer-enhanced X-ray technique, called Spect, could provide a relatively inexpensive and safe way of helping diagnose such disorders, researchers reported at the 75th Scientific Assembly of the Radiological Society of North America.

ST PAUL, Minnesota, Nov. 29, (AP)—Two plastic surgeons have restructured the skull of a young man from Bolivia who had a quarter of his brain blown away by a bullet five years ago.

"I can't believe it, it's incredible," Pacheco Penaloza, 21, said Monday.

Penaloza, who flies home Friday, said he's eager to return to school.

In 1984, in his hometown of La Paz, Bolivia, Penaloza and a friend were looking at the friend's father's pistol when it fired. The bullet entered just above Penaloza's left eye and emerged from the back of his head.

He survived surgery, but his prognosis was grim, doctors told his mother, Elvira Rosales. Paralysis of his right side was expected, and she said she was told he wouldn't speak again. He was in a coma for two months.

Surgeons rebuild skull

Quarter of victim's brain blown off

But when he awoke, his efforts to speak, regain his strength and write with his left hand astonished his family and doctors. The major problem, which his doctors were incapable of treating, was that his brain was extremely vulnerable, covered on the left side by only a thin layer of scar tissue.

Skow and Finney who performed the delicate reconstructive operation said Monday that the first step was to stretch Pacheco's scalp so they would have a flap of skin to cover the bone graft with which they intended to cover his brain.

Using a device more familiar in breast reconstruction surgery, they installed an inflatable plastic pouch called a tissue expander at the base of his skull. At weekly intervals over several months, they injected the balloon with fluid, each time stretching the scalp a little further.

Search for link to Pan Am blast

STOCKHOLM, Nov. 29, (AP)—Scottish investigators probing the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 have searched the home of a Palestinian with suspected links to the attack nearly one year ago, a newspaper reported today.

Dagens Nyheter said the three detectives seized clothing belonging to Mohammed Abu Taleb, his wife and children in Abu Taleb's home yesterday in Uppsala, 40 miles northwest of here.

They also questioned his wife and several acquaintances about his whereabouts in November and December last year, the paper said.

Abu Taleb, 35, was in jail awaiting a verdict on charges connected with a series of bomb attacks against US and Jewish targets in Scandinavia and Holland in 1985 and 1986.

The trial against him and three other defendants ended last week. Abu Taleb, who denied the charges, faces a possible life sentence.

Abu Taleb's lawyer, Sven-Erik Sjogren, said he had no direct knowledge of the search, but that he expected to hear from the Scottish policemen "at the end of the week."

If "several people are being heard, it is logical to come to me and Abu Taleb last," he said.

The bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland last Dec. 21 killed all 259 people on board and 11 on the ground. The New York-based flight originated in Frankfurt, West Germany and changed planes in London.

Abu Taleb's name was linked to the Flight 103 disaster when it was reported that he went twice to Malta in the two months preceding the bombing.

Investigators are pursuing the theory that the fatal bomb may have originated in Malta, been flown to Frankfurt aboard an Air Malta flight, and transferred to Flight 103.

Abu Taleb's passport showed he went to Malta for a week from Cyprus in October 1988. One day is unaccounted for from the time he left Cyprus to his arrival in Malta.



Protecting the elderly

Private Duane Bennett escorts elderly Dee King in the wealthy Sydney suburb of Mosman where a "granny killer" has so far plied his trade to death five old women in the past months. Soldiers are a part of a community volunteers force to protect the elderly people. (Reuters wirephoto)

I could be leader

Agca makes tall claims

ISTANBUL, Turkey, Nov. 29, (AP)—Mehmet Ali Agca, who tried to kill Pope John Paul II in 1981, says he could lead the Muslim world if he decided to take up politics, the Istanbul newspaper Sabah has reported.

"The quality and belief of a Muslim is in his heart... You have to know that if I get into politics one day I can become the leader of the Islamic world, because I am a true Muslim," it quoted the 31-year-old Turkish gunman as saying in an interview published in installments Sunday through yesterday.

Agca shot and wounded John Paul on May 18, 1981, in St. Peter's Square and is serving a life term in a prison at Ascoli Piceno, Italy, where he was interviewed.

He first said he had acted alone, but later claimed Bulgarian agents had planned the attack with Soviet help. In 1986, three Turks and three Bulgarians were acquitted of involvement.

A life sentence really means 30 years in Italy and Agca could be paroled in the year 2001. Agca said he wanted to live in a country that would accept him after his parole, and "if Italy allows me to stay I want to stay here."

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Give up Rushdie to have ties: Iran

NICOSIA, Nov. 29, (Reuters)—A headline Iranian newspaper said Britain must hand over Salman Rushdie, the author sentenced to death for blasphemy by the late Ayatollah Khomeini, if it wanted better relations with Iran.

The editorial in Jomhuri Eslami today followed remarks last week by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd who said he hoped Iran would use its influence to win the freedom of British hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

Jomhuri Eslami said Muslims would preserve their "revolutionary wrath" against enemies of Islam and would never forget what the paper called London's impudence over Rushdie's controversial novel "The Satanic Verses."

The book, which Muslims consider blasphemous, sparked protests by Muslims in Britain and other countries.

Apologies

The staunchly anti-Western paper said Britain should apologise to Muslims for publication of "The Satanic Verses," announce its readiness to hand over Rushdie and his publishers, and promise that similar acts offending Muslim sentiments would not be repeated.

There has been no official reaction from the Iranian government to Hurd's remarks.

Rushdie, an Indian-born Briton, has been in hiding under British police protection since February, when Iran's late revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, called on Muslims to kill him for blasphemy.

Reward offered

Two Iranian mullahs offered rewards of several million dollars for anyone who killed Rushdie and the Iranian government, condemning the novel's publication as a Western plot against Islam, broke diplomatic ties with Britain a month later.

Hurd said Britain did not want to isolate Iran but the nature of relations between the two countries depended on its action on hostages.

No group has claimed responsibility for abducting the four Britons missing in Lebanon. The include Church of England envoy Terry Waite and teacher Brian Keenan, who also has Irish nationality.

Jomhuri Eslami said if Hurd's remarks meant Britain wanted to make up for the past, they were welcome. But if Britain had other motives, it warned, "it should remember that Iran has tested London's good intentions and sincerity several times in the past with all resulting in disappointment."

Move in Africa

Muslims unite.

ABUJA, Nigeria, Nov. 29, (Reuters)—Muslims from nine African countries announced the founding of the Islam in Africa Organisation at a five-day conference which ended here yesterday.

The founding members come from Nigeria, where the group will be based, Gambia, Niger, Mauritania, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, Libya and Tunisia.

Its objectives include building strong economic ties between African countries and with other parts of the Islamic world, promoting education and spreading the use of the Arabic language.

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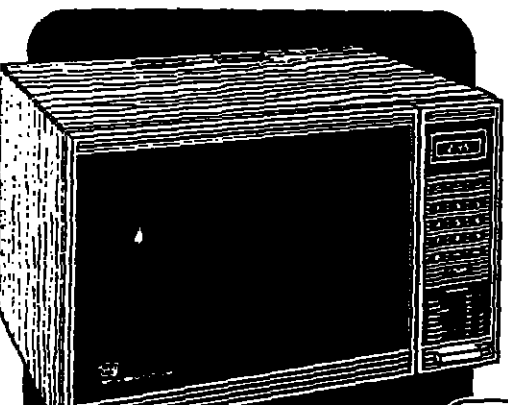
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A car and taxi lie crushed under part of the crane which collapsed on the street. (Reuters wirephoto)



The remains of two cars lie crushed under the wreckage of the crane. (Reuters wirephoto)

5 die as crane tips over

16th storey fall leaves 21 hurt

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov 29, (AP): A crane tipped over and plummeted from the 16th storey of a building under construction yesterday, flattening a school van, crushing several cars and smashing into an office building across the street. At least five people were killed, 21 injured and five left missing, authorities said.

Concrete and twisted steel rained on one of the busiest intersections in the financial district.

There were conflicting statements on what was happening before the crane fell. Fire chief Fred Postel said it was hoisting steel beams, but the general contractor said the crane was being repositioned from the 16th to 20th floors.

A piece of the crane at least three storeys long dangled from the side of the building under construction two hours after the 8.30 am (1630 GMT) accident.

The street was littered with flattened cars and a mangled motorcycle. Gas was cut off to the damaged 21-storey office building for fear of an explosion.

The fire chief said five people were listed as missing in the twisted steel and broken concrete.

Three hospitals reported receiving 21 victims.

four in serious condition. Most of the rest had minor injuries.

Debris rained down on a taxi driven by Issa Massarweh, who had two passengers at the time. The cab's back window was smashed.

A small fire broke out but was quickly extinguished.

In 1988-89, the construction site yielded close to one million artifacts dating to a Chinese settlement in the 1800s.

With its base on the ground, the 240-tonne crane, capable of lifting 17 tonnes, was being jacked up so workers could begin completing work on the top four floors of a 20-storey building.

Part of the crane's mast snapped at a point parallel with the 16th floor, and two sections of the boom above the mast began tumbling down, witnesses said.

The sections, each 75-100 feet long, struck neighbouring buildings before crashing onto the street, witnesses and officials said.

The coroner's office said yesterday's dead included two ironworkers, the crane operator, the school van driver and a pedestrian. A child who normally would have been on the van was having his tonsils out.

Golden horse riddle finally cracked

NEW YORK, Nov. 29, (AP): In 1984, a puzzle was offered to the public: Find a trove of buried gold. Now, an FBI agent and a prosecutor from Los Angeles have succeeded where thousands failed, solving the riddle of the Golden Horse. But the two will get no reward; the deadline for the puzzle passed with no claimants last May 26.

The puzzle was offered in 1984 as a story titled "Treasure: In search of the golden horse," released as a story in book and videotape form and offering arcane and enigmatic clues to where the treasure lay buried.

Contestants had to find a statuette of a buried horse made of 2.2 pounds (1 kilogramme) of

pure gold. It also contained a key to a safe deposit box containing a 20-year annuity for \$25,000 a year.

Many frustrated treasure hunters spent years, money and sweat on the puzzle. Some maintained the contest was a fraud.

Yesterday, Nick Boone and Anthony Castaneda, who spent more than five years working separately on the puzzle, told the Associated Press that they had solved the riddle.

The two partners deduced that the golden horse was buried in the western mountain state of Colorado, at a place called Tennessee Pass.

10,400, feet (3,170 metres) above sea level. Boone said the clues to the elaborate puzzle finally came together on Nov 1 and he and Castaneda flew to Tennessee Pass two days later to dig up whatever evidence of the stash remained.

Amid snow, cold and gathering darkness, they missed the spot by 18 inches (46 centimetres), Boone said.

Returning to Los Angeles, the collaborators realised that they should have had an instant camera with them to photograph the site and exactly align a landmark with a map from the

book on which the spot was marked with an "X".

They returned on Nov 18 and this time dug up a vial containing a parchment that began: "Dear seeker. Congratulations. Your travels are over," Boone said.

They also found the remains of the crate that had contained the horse and a coat the crate had been wrapped in, said Conlon.

Thomas Conlon, president of D.L. Blair, the promotion company that oversaw the contest, confirmed that Boone gave them "totally convincing proof that he found the exact location." Blair has refused to divulge the solution.

Abortion pill to be sold in Britain

LONDON, Nov 29, (UPI): France already has the "abortion pill" and if it is successfully administered to 20,000 more patients there, then so could Britain.

But not all Britons want it. The abortion pill — also known by its brand name Mifegyne or Ru 486, the number representing its molecular sequence — was approved by the French government in September 1988.

Possibly available in Britain as early as February 1991, the drug has been used on 30,000 women with a 95 per cent success rate.

Opponents say that performance is not good enough.

Discovered by French scientist Etienne Baulieu, Ru 486 temporarily blocks progesterone receptors in the lining of a womb. Because progesterone is a hormone required to maintain pregnancy, a spontaneous abortion occurs.

There are currently no plans to sell Ru 486 in the United States, where the drug has been hailed as a potentially revolutionary breakthrough by family planning advocates and a death pill by anti-abortionists. Many experts predict the pill will eventually be available legally in the United States, although a black market may develop first.

Prospects Catherine Evrard, spokeswoman for Roussel Uclaf, the French company that makes the drug, said her firm may market Ru 486 in Britain through its British arm, Roussel Laboratories. Italy and Scandinavian countries also are prospects, she said, but it is unclear how long it will be before the drug is available in other countries.

Roussel wants to monitor the pill's use on 50,000 French women before they will allow it to be marketed elsewhere, Evrard said.

"We don't know anything about the side effects," she said, adding the company wants to be sure the drug is marketed "correctly" and not on the black market.

Paul Tully, of Britain's society for the protection of unborn children, criticised the pill because of its 5 per cent failure rate, which is a problem especially in areas that do not have medical facilities to handle an incomplete abortion.

An incomplete abortion, Tully said, could cause infection, infertility or even death.

"When you translate that ... to a village in India or an island in Polynesia or a township in Africa where their medical facilities are relatively primitive, there's going to be a serious threat to women's health," Tully said.

On the other side, Dallas Cossey, chairman of the family planning association, said her group thinks Ru 486 should be available in Britain.

"I would like to see it available in this country, properly controlled, of course," Cossey said. "You've got to have it done through a doctor — in the same way that you have oral contraceptives."

More than 100 certified French abortion clinics and several hospitals in China — which also approved the pill for marketing — received Ru 486. However, distribution was halted Oct 26, 1988 after Roman Catholic groups opposing abortion began a high-pressure campaign, saying they would boycott Roussel Uclaf products as well as threaten doctors who prescribed it.

Two days later, French Health Minister Claude Evit ordered Roussel to resume distribution in China and France, which legalised abortion in 1975.

Process Women missing two menstrual periods are given two tablets at a licensed clinic or hospital. They return after 48 hours for a prostaglandin injection to complete the abortion, then are given check-ups a week after the process.

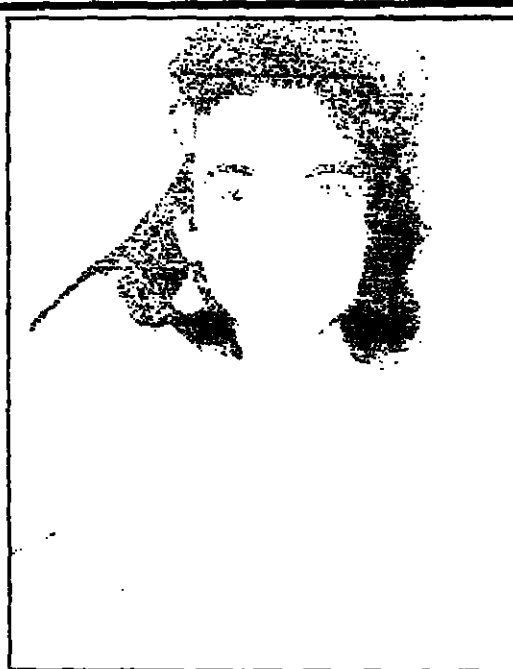
Evrard said the abortion pill has not caused an increase of abortions in France, which has an abortion rate of about 150,000 a year.

In England and Wales, 183,798 legal abortions were performed in 1988, a 5.5 per cent increase from 174,276 in 1987. The British Department of Health completed a study in December 1988 of 1,000 British women who took Ru 486.



First live liver donor

John Smith (right) appears at a news conference Nov 28 after a section of liver from his wife, Theresa, was transplanted into their daughter Alyssa. Dr Cristoph Brelsch (left) at the University of Chicago Hospital describes the surgery, performed for the first time in the US. (Reuters wirephoto)



Liver transplantee dies

An undated picture of Ailing Barnett who died at 5:00 pm Nov 28. Ailing received a liver transplant after her husband made an appeal for a donor on TV. (Reuters wirephoto)

Doctors worry over transplant future

Mom's liver recipient girl undergoes another surgery

PITTSBURGH, Nov 29, (AP): Taking liver segments from healthy adults and putting them into dying children can ease a critical shortage but the gains cannot be justified if they come at the donors' expense, surgeons said.

"The major thing is what's the risk to the donor," said Dr Barry Kahan, president of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons and director of transplantation at the University of Texas at Houston, who was monitoring the nation's first living-donor liver transplant.

"Before there's a wide application of this, one would like to get an estimate of the hazard to the donor. Certainly a high mortality rate in the donor could not give one much enthusiasm for continuing this," Kahan said.

Surgeons at the University of Chicago medical centre on Monday became the first in the country to perform a living-donor liver transplant.

Teresa Smith, 29, a teacher from Schertz, Texas, had about a third of her liver removed and placed into her 21-month-old daughter, Alyssa, who had been waiting more than a year for a liver from a brain-dead donor.

Doctors who performed the dual operations predicted success for Alyssa, despite additional surgery yesterday to stop internal bleeding. Expectations also were high for Mrs Smith, whose spleen was removed after the organ accidentally was damaged in surgery.

Dr Robert Gordon of the University of Pittsburgh, the world's leading transplant centre, said

he hopes doctors are "a little more cautious about jumping into this" than they have been in the past with other medical advances.

"It's one thing to just give new medicine," Gordon said. "It's another thing to subject healthy, living donors to a surgical procedure without giving careful consideration to it. If you do any harm, the negative impact would be enormous."

For Kahan, a 1 per cent mortality rate among donating parents, or one death in every 100 cases, would be acceptable provided the child had a 50 per cent or more chance of being alive five years after surgery.

The mortality rate for people donating one of their two kidneys to ill relatives is about 0.1 per cent, or one death in every 1,000 cases.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

NEW YORK: Actress Claudette Colbert says her success at funny nice-girl roles during her career probably blocked her from saucier parts.

The 86-year-old star of the 1934 romantic comedy "It Happened One Night" and 61 other pictures told *Time* magazine in its December-January issue that there's "nothing less interesting than a good-guy, and I played a lot of them."

"The difficulty was that they made money on my comedies and never thought of me as doing the other thing, which I could do. The best thing to play is a bitch, a bitch with a heart of gold," said Colbert, who resides in Barbados and New York.

Colbert, who will receive the Kennedy Centre Award from US President George Bush in a nationally televised broadcast on December 3, says she is surprised she has remained so well known world-wide.

"What is a thrill is that because of the screen I can go anywhere in the world, I'm very lucky, and they still recognise me. It's amazing. Maybe it's because of my funny-shaped face," she said. (AP)

KANSAS CITY, Kansas: A man known as "The Gentleman Bandit" because he promised to send a rose and said "have a nice day" after taking money pleaded guilty to robbing two savings and loans businesses. Kevin Lee Newby, 34, entered the plea Monday in US district court. Newby originally had been charged with robbing five Kansas City area banks between April and August. The remaining three counts will be dismissed at the time of sentencing, according to a plea agreement. (AP)

NEW YORK: Heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson says he likes clothes so much that he buys new clothes every day, according to an interview published in the December issue of *Vogue*.



Nuptial bed to be auctioned

The nuptial bed shared by Marilyn Monroe and Joe Di Maggio during their eight-month marriage will be auctioned off in Ho-Ho-Rus NJ this weekend.

His companion, Naomi Campbell, said it's true: "Mike buys new clothes every single day. But while he may like the latest clothing fashions, he is not interested in one popular male fashion accessory — earrings."

"No, I would never do that," Tyson said. "I have opinions about the kind of thing I'm a man, and I know what my opinions are about that kind of thing." (AP)

Judge rebuked

Homos laud

AUSTIN, Texas, Nov 29, (AP): Homosexual activists are applauding a state judicial panel's decision to rebuke a judge who said he gave a lighter sentence to a killer because the two victims were "queers."

Attorneys for district judge Jack Hampton of Dallas said they were disappointed that "the commission must have succumbed to pressure from the media and from uninformed special interest groups."

Members of the Dallas Gay Alliance say they will want Hampton to step down.

"I believe that it's certainly a step in the right direction," said William Waybourn, president of the group. "But judge Hampton remains on the bench. What is to happen now to gay men and lesbians who come into his courtroom?"

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Terror to fight terror in Peru

LONDON, Nov 29, (AP): Government forces in Peru are using "terror to fight terror" and have killed 3,000 people in seven years of brutality that targets children and matches the leftist rebels, Amnesty International said today.

"Torture, mutilation, 'disappearance', murder and rape have become a hallmark of the armed forces' campaign against terrorism," the international human rights organisation said in a report on Peru.

It said the armed forces have singled out children and young people as suspected supporters of the Maoist Shining Path movement, and hundreds have been murdered, tortured or simply have disappeared.

"The killing, torture and 'disappearance' of hundreds of children and young people has been one cost of a strategy of 'terror to fight terror' adopted by the armed forces in Peru," it said.

The organisation said it was launching a campaign against human rights violations by Peru's armed forces, and it called on the government to investigate all alleged abuses and bring those responsible to justice.

In a 17-page report titled "Caught between two fires," Amnesty claimed extensive and continuing massacres, mutilations and torture by opposition forces such as the Shining Path, or Sendero Luminoso.

As a result, it said, peasants in areas where the government has declared a state of emergency have been "caught between two fires," victims of massive abuse by both government forces and armed rebels.

It said security force abuses are growing.

"A climate of terror ... is spreading across much of the country," Amnesty International said. "Many people have relatives who have been killed in cold blood by both anti-government guerrillas and government forces."

Fresh battles erupt in Salvador capital

US embassy closed down

SAN SALVADOR, Nov 29, (Reuters): Fresh battles in San Salvador today forced the US embassy to close and left-wing rebels demanded the evacuation of leading hotels in embattled districts.

As the crash of exploding mortar shells resounded through the fashionable western part of the capital, security guards and Salvadoran Army officers at the bunker-like US mission said it had been closed until further notice due to the fighting.

A Western diplomat said there was shooting throughout Escalon, San Benito and Lomas de San Francisco where most of the US personnel live.

"It's not safe ... to drive the streets to go to work."

Radio Venceremos, the radio station of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), meanwhile called for the evacuation of three leading hotels in the area — the Sheraton, the Hotel Terra, and the Presidente.

A soundman for the US-based Spanish-language television station Univision was hit by a bullet in the shoulder while covering battles in Escalon, where the guerrillas had seized parts of the Sheraton last Tuesday.



Passers-by observe the corpse of one of the alleged assassins of Jose Francisco Guerrero, ex-president of El Salvador Supreme Court who was killed yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Reuters photographer Malcolm Linton said he saw an armoured personnel carrier that had been blown up early yesterday in an apparent guerrilla ambush about four blocks from the Sheraton.

The bodies of five dead soldiers lay on the street nearby and guerrillas picked through their pockets, searching for ammunition and valuables.

It was not immediately clear if the fighting signalled the resumption of a major guerrilla offensive on the capital that began on Nov 11 and appeared to have ended when the rebels withdrew on Nov 22.

The rebels said on their clandestine radio today they had attacked the headquarters of the joint chiefs of staff with mortars. But officers on the scene said none had fallen in the compound, which also houses the Defence Ministry.

Residents of the zone, in the capital's western sector said they heard several loud explosions near the fortified complex between 2 am and 3 am (0900-1000 GMT).

Rebels fired rocket-propelled grenades and assault rifles at the Public Security Academy in the western suburb of Merlot. Col Rigoberto Soto, director of the academy, said the attack was repelled. He said his troops suffered no casualties but that a few guerrillas appeared to have been wounded.

Fighting continued to be heavy after daylight on the edge of the affluent Escalon neighbourhood, which reaches to the slopes of the San Salvador volcano, a guerrilla stronghold.

Fighting was heavy at times before dawn along the tree-lined streets of San Benito, a wealthy residential district where US Ambassador William Walker has his official residence. Guerrillas burned a mansion just blocks from Walker's house. It was not immediately known whether Walker was home at the time.

Guerrillas and soldiers of the US-supported, rightist government also exchanged fire in Guadalupe, south of the chiefs of staff, where three light tanks were positioned across the street from a movie theatre.

Helicopters and O-2 spotter aircraft fired machine-guns and rockets at suspected guerrilla positions west and south of the capital for several hours before dawn.

Nicaragua President Daniel Ortega says his government must be on the "side of the people" not the administration of El Salvador, which has broken diplomatic relations with Nicaragua.

"The problem is not whether the plane, loaded with missiles which crashed, got there (El Salvador)," Ortega told a group of church leaders.



Nicaraguan pilot Mauricio Quiroz shows to reporters in Managua his pilot license denying that he is the man reported dead in El Salvador after a plane flying arms to rebels crashed last week.

Panama nabs two politicians

PANAMA CITY, Nov 29, (AP): Two opposition politicians were arrested at the airport on their return from the United States and authorities refused yesterday to say where they were, another opposition leader said.

Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party, said diplomats who were at the airport watched authorities detain his party's vice-president, Guillermo Cochez, and Francisco Artola, vice-president of the Arnulfista Party.



Salvadoran Rambo

A Salvadoran soldier sports a Hollywood style Rambo head band as he keeps a wary eye out for leftist guerrillas in the suburb of Mejicanos, San Salvador. (Reuters wirephoto)



Collor de Mello



Lula da Silva

Brazil polls 2nd round

Wooing the poor

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 29, (Reuters): The official campaign for the decisive second round of Brazil's presidential election opened yesterday with both candidates battling to win the votes of the poor masses.

The winner will inherit the nation's worst economic crisis this century, but economists say neither Fernando Collor de Mello nor Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has proposed a solid plan to deal with huge debts and runaway inflation.

Collor, 40, a well-groomed populist from a rich political family, and Lula, 44, a former factory worker who lost a finger on the assembly line, will be vying for votes with 20 minutes' television time each day for the next two weeks.

In their television appearances both candidates tried to portray themselves as true representatives of the poor and spent virtually no time outlining their plans for government.

"The candidates are competing for who can make the most appealing list of promises ... neither says how he plans to finance and execute these promises," economist Joaquim Eloy Toledo of Sao Paulo University told Reuters.

Lula has promised to raise the monthly minimum wage to \$200 from \$80. Collor has said he would raise it to \$370 by 1994.

US to probe Bogota jet blast

BOGOTA, Nov 29, (AP): Authorities say the flight recorder from a Colombian jetliner that exploded in the air will be sent to the United States for analysis.

Colombian authorities found the flight recorder, under one of the wrecked engines of an Avianca Airlines Boeing 727 that blew up on Monday, minutes after taking off from Bogota's El Dorado airport.

The assistant director of the Civil Air Authority, Col. Edgar Lesmes, said that experts had determined that an explosion had ripped through the plane, but don't know what caused the blast.

He said in a radio interview that no trace of an explosive device had been found in the plane's wreckage.

The flight recorder contains such data as air speed, altitude and engine readings from the time of the crash.

Colombia's Civil Air Authority planned to send the instrument, along with the airplane pilot's conversation recorder, to Washington, DC, for analysis by the US Federal Aviation Administration, a spokesman for the agency said.

The two instruments could be sent as soon as possible," said the spokeswoman, Astrid Gonzalez.

She said authorities hoped the two instruments might provide clues as to what caused the explosion on flight 203 as the plane flew over the grassy hills just south of Bogota on its way to the city of Cali.

Speculation about the cause of the blast has been rampant since a terrorist bomb to pilot error was cracked in the plane's fuselage.

Gonzalez called such speculation by officials and the news media "irresponsible" and said investigators were forbidden from making statements about the crash.

"I think it's pure speculation to say that we have ruled out anything at this point," Gonzalez said in a telephone interview. "We still don't have some of the basic data from the flight. We need to obtain the results of analysis before we confirm or deny anything."

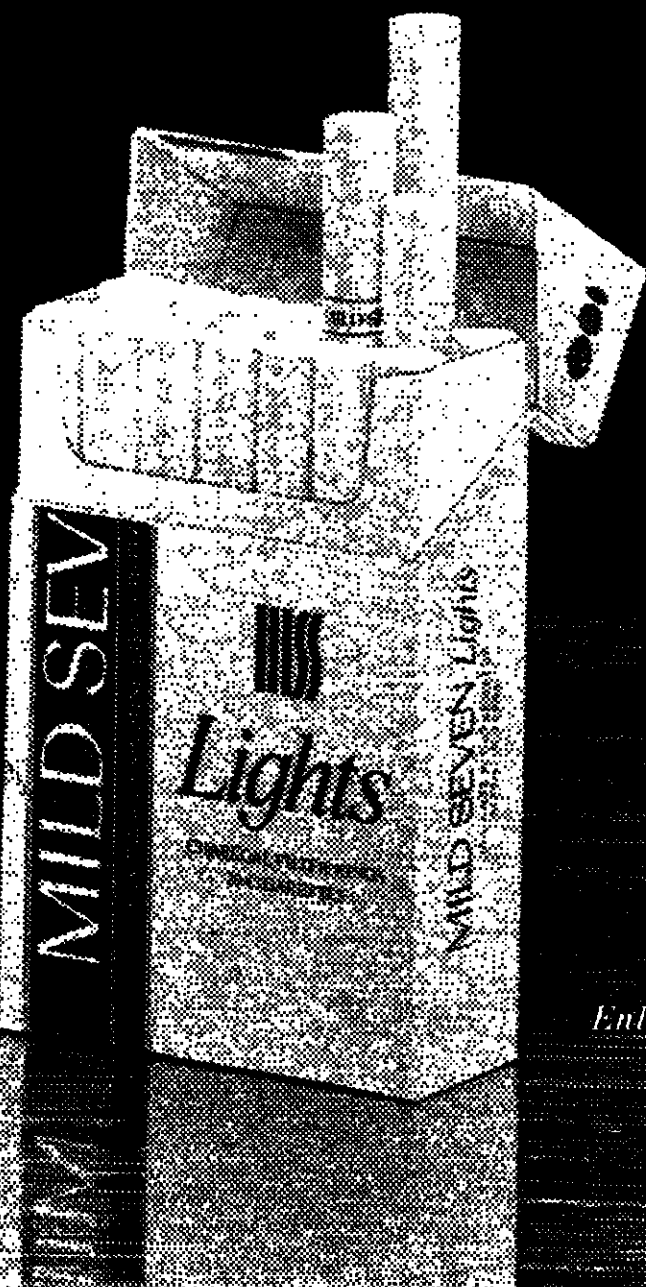
Gonzalez said that while the FAA reviewed flight data, eight officials would carry on an investigation of the plane's wreckage in Bogota.

The Colombian team includes experts from the Civil Air Authority, the pilot's association and Avianca. They are to be assisted by a group of Boeing experts, who arrived in Bogota yesterday from the United States.

"I think we can finish the investigation in about 20 days," Gonzalez said.

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Panama nabs two politicians

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INTERNATIONAL



American artist Richard Ewen unveils his portrait of Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher at Claridge's in London. The picture depicts Thatcher's changing moods in five facets using the artist's heads in motion technique. (Reuter wirephoto)



Conservative Member of Parliament, Sir Anthony Meyer, who is set to challenge Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for the party leadership. (Reuter wirephoto)

Nato members upgrade arms

Fall in new purchase

LONDON, Nov 29, (AP): The cost of new weapons systems and decreasing defence budgets are forcing more countries, including a number with Nato, to upgrade their armoured vehicles rather than buy new ones, the authors of a Jane's yearbook said today.

Nato countries are concentrating their upgrading on improving fire control systems and providing an enhanced night vision capability, said the authors of the 1989-1990 edition of "Jane's armoured fighting vehicle systems."

to be reduced to three, they said.

The new gun could be mounted externally with the crew seated inside the hull. The authors said this provides a number of advantages, including a significant weight saving, as the turret on current MBTs can weigh 20 tons.

"The weight saved could be used to make the vehicle more compact or to increase protecting levels, especially against top attack weapons," the authors said.

"Few countries are at present installing new armament which is required to penetrate the latest Soviet MBTs (main battle tanks) or to install more armour to increase their battlefield survivability," wrote Christopher Foss and Tony Cullen.

They said the installation of a larger calibre gun and additional armour would in most cases overload the vehicles' suspension and reduce the power-to-weight ratio.

Nato's next tank gun is likely to have a calibre of 140 mm and will be fed by an automatic loader which will enable the crew

"In addition, it would present an enemy with a much smaller target."

The authors said much development work is taking place on conventional tank guns and ammunition, but "there is little doubt that in the longer term the future is in other types of weapon systems for the main armament."

Liquid propellant is the most likely route for artillery, they said. For the MBT, the electromagnetic or electrothermal gun is showing "much promise."

The United States is the leader in both areas, they said, in the latter because of a spinoff from the Star Wars programme.

Belfast bombs defused

BELFAST, Northern Ireland, Nov 29, (AP): The army yesterday defused two bombs at Short Brothers' aircraft factory where three bombs went off Monday night, police said.

The bombs were found under mobile fuel tankers and each contained 5 pounds (2.2 kilogramme) of Czechoslovak-made Semtex explosives, police said.

"They could have had serious consequences," said a spokesman, who requested anonymity.

Two bombs planted near a Shorts 330 aircraft exploded Monday, causing £4 million (\$6 million) in damages, the spokesman said. A third bomb damaged an entrance gate at the Canadian-owned complex in northeast Belfast.

No one was injured, police said.

Britain's domestic Press Association news agency said the outlawed Irish Republican Army claimed responsibility. Police said an anonymous woman caller telephoned a warning 20 minutes before the explosions and said there were five bombs.

The IRA claimed the action was in protest against alleged discrimination.

Maggie supporters demand she stay

Commons question time

Thatcher under siege

LONDON, Nov 29, (Reuter): Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, facing the first test of her 14-year leadership of Britain's ruling Conservative Party, was loudly cheered in Parliament yesterday as she agreed with a call to stay in office.

Party member Sir Anthony Meyer earlier told reporters he would press on with a challenge to Thatcher despite her declaration that she planned to carry on well into the 1990s.

Thatcher was told by little-known Conservative politician Michael Cartiss: "My constituents and the people of this country demand that you remain."

LONDON, Nov 29, (AP): Question time, parliament's most popular event, went on live television yesterday, giving viewers a closeup of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher under verbal siege.

For a fast-moving 15 minutes, Mrs. Thatcher fielded questions on eastern Europe, working mothers, her talks with US President George Bush, the auto industry, Northern Ireland, homeless youth, the national water supply and prospects for extending her 10-year spell in office.

The cut and thrust was less than savage — no honorable member was expelled for using unparliamentary language, and Mrs. Thatcher didn't have to do much shouting.

It was historic nonetheless, being the first question time starting Mrs. Thatcher since the cameras began rolling in the House of Commons a week ago — and her first such exchange since declaring that any talk of her retirement was premature.

The questioners can table a substantive question, but that gives Mrs. Thatcher time to prepare an answer. Or they can ask her simply to list her engagements for the day, then follow up with anything they please.

The latter tactic is intended to wrongfoot the prime minister and unleash howls of derision from the backbenches.

Tuesday's session opened with an easy job from a Conservative on the government's plans to reform the National Health Service. Mrs. Thatcher, 64, put on her glasses and read aloud extracts from a newspaper article by a doctor, "not of our political persuasion," praising the reforms.

Up bobbed Neil Kinnock, leader of the opposition Labour Party, grilling Mrs. Thatcher on an official report that the government sold off an ailing state-owned auto maker too cheaply.

Mrs. Thatcher replied that considering the company had hardly ever made a profit in recent years, selling it was "a major achievement."

The Conservatives usually ask the friendly questions, the opposition lawmakers ask the tough ones.

Cartiss said he was speaking out after being named in a radio programme as someone likely to vote against Thatcher.

In a television interview on Monday, Thatcher said the unprecedented challenge to her authority was bad for the party and bad for the country.

But she defended the right of

party members to challenge her and indicated she was happy to serve as prime minister well past the next general election, due by mid-1992.

Meyer declared yesterday nothing Thatcher said in the interview had persuaded him to change his mind. "I am going

ahead," he told reporters.

During the rumbustious Commons question time, which lasts for 15 minutes and takes place twice a week, Thatcher was subjected to further catcalls from opposition benches when she referred to herself as "we" — a mannerism used in Britain by

3 Hezb men get jail in Madrid

MADRID, Spain, Nov 29, (AP): A judge ordered three men imprisoned yesterday pending further investigation leading to charges of smuggling 220 kilos (440 pounds) of plastic explosives into Spain for use, according to police, in international terrorist attacks.

A source close to the investigation said judge Carlos Bueren ordered the release without charges of the fourth of the original eight men arrested Friday. The judge had not yet questioned the four others.

Police believe the three men ordered to prison are members of Hezbollah, an Iranian-backed Shiite Muslim extremist organization based in Lebanon.

But they would not provide details linking the five others — the released man, identified as a Sudanese, and four Iraqis — to Hezbollah or to the explosives.

Hezbollah, whose name means "Party of God" in Arabic, has denied any connection with the men arrested in Spain.

The three men ordered to prison were identified by their passports as Ali Mohammed Sbaiti, 31, of Lebanon, Abbas Mohammed Hallan, 23, of Kuwait and Hassan Hassan Rahd, 24, of Brazil.

Two of the three were arrested in the Mediterranean port of Valencia, where police found the plastic explosives, 258 French-made detonators and four hand grenades hidden in cans of chickpea puree and fig jam imported from Lebanon.

Police identified the explosive as composition 4, a military explosive made by the US Army. A US Army explosives expert from Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, said the amount of composition 4 discovered in Valencia would be powerful enough to level a city block.

Shipment

The shipment of 1,600 cartons of canned goods arrived in Valencia Nov 12 aboard a cargo ship that makes a regular, 10-day circuit of Mediterranean ports including Beirut. The explosives were sealed in cans that bore the brand of the Societe Libanaise Des Conserves Modernes in Chataura, Lebanon.

The police said the shipment was addressed to the Alisar Import Export Co. in Valencia, operated by the three men ordered to prison.

Sbaiti was arrested in Madrid, where the source said police also found manuals describing how to build bombs and make explosives.

The five others were also arrested in Madrid, police said.

A court official said judge Bueren had questioned only one of the eight, Sbaiti.

Under Spanish law, the judge had until the end of the day to decide whether to release the suspects or order them to prison pending further investigation and formal charges.

Interrogation

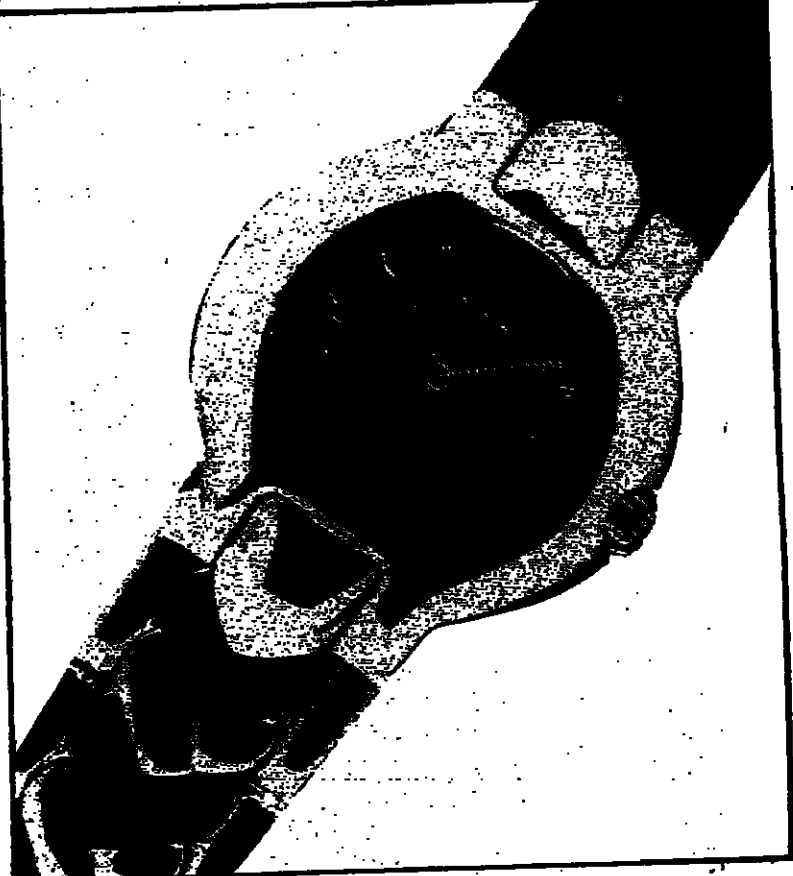
Sbaiti told the judge he sympathised with Hezbollah but denied being a member of the group, said the official, who was present during the interrogation.

Sbaiti was arrested in his Madrid apartment along with the other four men.

Outside the courthouse, three people who would only identify themselves as friends of the five men arrested in Madrid with Sbaiti, said they were innocent.

They said four of the five were registered as political refugees with the Spanish government and that all five have lived in Spain for several years without ever having been in trouble with the police.

FOR WOMEN



FOR MEN

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Nato pledges to keep up guard, welcomes East bloc changes

No unilateral arms cut that could undermine CFE accord

BRUSSELS, Nov 29, (AP): Despite the rapid changes in Eastern Europe, Nato defence ministers today pledged not to make any unilateral arms cuts that might hurt prospects for an agreement on reducing conventional forces in Europe.

The ministers said in a statement after two days of talks at the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation that they welcomed the changes in the East. But they also issued a word of caution.

"A time of rapid political change presents the West with new opportunities, although the resulting uncertainty also carries potential risks," they said.

"Our defence requirements must continue to be assessed against the realities of Warsaw Pact military capabilities," they said.

They noted that the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact already had begun unilateral reductions in conventional, or non-nuclear, arms.

But the ministers cautioned, "we cannot ignore the fact that, even after completion of these reductions, the Warsaw Pact will retain well-equipped forces which substantially outnumber those of the West."

As a result, the statement said the ministers would take a "pragmatic, step-by-step approach" to changes in Eastern Europe. And, they renewed their "determination not to make any unilateral reductions that could risk undermining the prospect of reaching a CFE accord."

The CFE talks on reducing Conventional Forces in Europe are under way in Vienna, Austria, between negotiators for the Warsaw Pact and Nato. Officials expect an agreement on reducing tanks and other hardware in the second half of next year.

Yesterday, US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said the United States will make no major cuts in the number of its troops in

Europe without conducting a survey of its Nato partners, officials said.

Cheney assured the other Nato defence ministers the United States "intends to stay here as long as the allies want." British Defence Secretary Tom King said after the first day of talks at Nato headquarters.

The issue of US troops in Europe has gained new significance in recent days following reports of an austerity study that calls for reducing US military expenditures in the first half of the 1990s.

The United States now has 305,000 troops in Europe, most of them in West Germany. Talk of US troop cuts in Europe has prompted concerns that other Western nations might also lower their defence spending even before a conventional arms and troops deal is reached.

Nato must maintain "an adequate and effective defence," King said.

"That is our warning," he added: "We think it is a sensible warning. We are in an incredibly volatile, unstable situation."

Norwegian Gen. Vigleik Eide, head of Nato's panel of military commanders, concurred. "Support for defence efforts in the future will be problematic because of the perception of the threat as already gone," he said.

Cheney used the Nato meeting to stifle any fears that the events in Eastern Europe will lessen the US commitment to the defence of Europe.

"I take the position that the United States will not change its stance in the current (conventional arms) negotiations," West German Defence Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg said during a break in yesterday's talks.

In the conventional forces reduction talks, Washington wants the Soviet Union and the United States to trim their forces in Europe to

275,000 soldiers each. That would mean a cutback of 300,000 Soviet and 30,000 US troops.

The austerity study by the US Defence Department covers the period from 1992-1995.

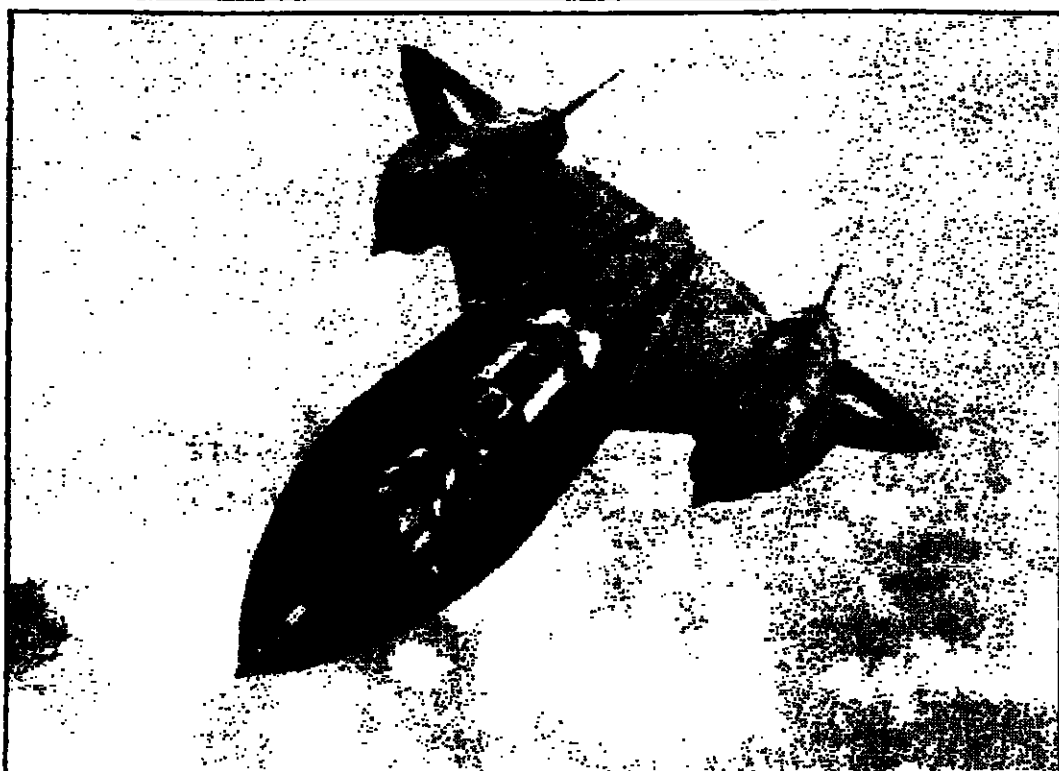
Any cuts resulting from that study "would be considered in the Nato context and in full consultation with our allies," said a senior US official, who asked not to be identified.

US officials said the cuts under study are based on assumptions of a conventional arms accord, a superpower deal on long-range nuclear missiles, no major military conflicts in the Third World and continued political reforms in Eastern Europe.

Officials said no troops would be pulled out of Europe in the 1990 fiscal year, which began Oct 1, except for those reduced because of the 1987 superpower treaty on medium-range nuclear missiles.



Cheney gestures during a news conference. (Reuters wirephoto)



Blackbird to be retired

The United States has decided to retire the secret-shrouded SR-71 'Blackbird' reconnaissance jet, the superstar of winged espionage. Funding to phase out the spy plane, was contained in a \$286 billion

fiscal 1990 defence bill that cut Pentagon purchasing power for the fifth straight year. The "Blackbird" is shown in 1987 photos. (Reuters wirephoto)

Study on Soviet-US military crises

Red army response slow

WASHINGTON, Nov 29, (UPI): A classified study done for Defence Secretary Richard Cheney concludes that the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies for several years have been incapable of launching a quick attack against the West, the Washington Post reported today.

But the same 30-page Pentagon study revealed that during the Soviet "Prague Spring" invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, Moscow put its battlefield nuclear rocket forces on a 10-minute alert fearing possible Western intervention.

The study on "lessons learned" from US-Soviet military crises was prepared before the current pro-democracy movement erupted in Eastern Europe, the Post said. The conclusions

about Soviet military reaction time represents a consensus of opinion by the joint chiefs of staff, Central Intelligence Agency and Defence Intelligence Agency.

The study made available to the newspaper depicts as outdated two scenarios for war in Europe that drove the West to keep its forces at a high level of readiness over the past decade. One scenario had the Soviet Union invading with little advance preparation. A second scenario was for a Soviet attack after only two weeks of mobilisation.

In the most likely circumstances for a Soviet attack, the study says, "the intelligence community believes we would have some 33 to 44 days of warning time."

Soviets rap Kohl 'call for union'

MOSCOW, Nov 29, (Reuters): The Soviet Union today condemned a call by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl for a federation of East and West Germany, accusing him of trying to stir up East German nationalism.

"We can see clearly an attempt to push the recently started process of reorganisation in the GDR (East Germany) in a nationalist direction, to prescribe the route and meaning of reforms," Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuri Gerasimovich said.

He said Kohl had acted without considering the feelings of other European countries, especially East Germany, noting that East Berlin's leaders had said reunification was not on their political agenda.

"It is completely clear that such actions do not correspond in any way to the Helsinki principles... and have nothing to do with universally adopted norms of relations between sovereign states," Gerasimovich told a regular news conference.

Kohl, in a speech to Parliament yesterday, outlined a 10-point German unity programme and offered economic support to East Berlin in Bonn's boldest response yet to radical changes sweeping through East Germany.

East German officials said Kohl was undermining the tide of opinion from other European states — including the Soviet Union — which did not want to change the post-World War II borders.

"One should not forget that there are dozens of other states in Europe which are intensely interested in preserving stability but not in the destruction of territorial political structures, with all resulting dangerous consequences for the peaceful future of European peoples," Gerasimovich said.

Gerasimovich also accused Kohl of interfering in East Germany's internal affairs by making economic aid contingent on democratic reforms.

"The further development of relations with the GDR (East Germany) is being made directly dependent on fulfilment of a number of conditions, including demands to change the political and social system," he said of Kohl's speech.

Asked whether he was saying Moscow was flatly opposed to German reunification, Gerasimovich said the division of Germany could be resolved only as part of a broader process of overcoming the division of Europe.

His words indicated that while the Kremlin was willing to talk about dissolving military blocs, it had no wish to see single Warsaw Pact countries — especially Moscow's strategic ally East Germany — slip out of the alliance and forge links with the West.

About 3.4 million people have left East Germany in the 40 years since it was founded, ripping holes in the social fabric and causing a demographic crisis, according to the country's leading population expert.

The Communist Party daily Neues Deutschland today said Professor Gensler Winkler had told East Germany's first-ever conference on German unity that most of those who had left were under the age of 40 and skilled.

Since 1961, when East Germany built the Berlin Wall and sealed its borders with the West, about 300,000 people had left.

"This emigration, which is by no means over, exacerbates the already significant ageing tendency in the East German population," the newspaper quoted Winkler as saying.

This year alone over 250,000 East Germans have left for the West as discontent with years of hardship boiled over.

"In the long term (the age of those leaving) will affect society's labour, wealth and birth figures as well," he said.

Winkler, head of the Sociology and Socio-Political Academy, said East Germany would have to remove the reasons for people emigrating and consider anew the possibility of allowing foreigners to settle in the country.

Gorby makes history with first visit to Italy

No summit surprises, promises Bush

ROME, Nov 29, (Agencies): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev arrived in Italy today for a three-day visit highlighted by a historic audience with the Pope.

It is the first time a Soviet Communist Party leader has made an official visit to Rome or met with the pontiff.

Premier Giulio Andreotti welcomed the Soviet President shortly after his Ilyushin-62 touched down at Leonardo da Vinci airport at 11.30 (1030 GMT) on a sunny Rome morning. The two leaders inspected an honour guard and a 21-gun salute rang out.

A short while later, thousands of Italians, some waving little red

Soviet flags, cheered Gorbachev as his motorcade travelled from the Soviet ambassador's residence to the Renaissance presidential palace for a meeting with President Francesco Cossiga. Sharpshooters were posted on buildings along the route.

While not as effusive as the popular welcome given the Soviet President in other western European countries, it was a rare public tribute to a foreign leader in the Italian capital.

At the palace, once the summer home of the popes, Gorbachev and Cossiga listened solemnly to their national anthems. They then walked

down a red carpet flanked by soldiers, including a delegation in plumed black, gold and red hats on horseback.

The schedule also included a meeting with Andreotti, a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Rome and a tour of such famous sights as the Colosseum.

The visit comes just prior to a weekend summit off Malta between Gorbachev and US President George Bush. Italian officials say they hope to get in "the last European word" before those talks.

Capping the visit, Gorbachev is to meet Friday with Polish-born Pope John Paul II, in the first encounter ever between a leader of the world's 850 million Roman Catholics and a Soviet Communist Party chief.

On the eve of Gorbachev's arrival, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro said the Pope would ask for establishment of permanent ties between the Holy See and the Kremlin.

As the Gorbachev visit began, Amnesty International's Rome office issued an appeal for the release of seven Soviet political prisoners, including one it said was detained for religious activities.

More than 2,000 Italian security police and hundreds of KGB agents were deployed in Rome today. Bomb disposal experts checked trash cans, sewers and bridges the Gorbachev motorcade will cross.

The Soviet leader's talks with the president and premier were expected to focus on Eastern Europe, where Czechoslovakia recently joined East Germany, Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria in rejecting hard-line communism.

In Washington, President George Bush sought to reassure European allies about his summit with Gorbachev, promising not to surprise anyone with agreements to cut nuclear weapons or reduce US troops overseas.

Bush said he and Gorbachev may discuss possible military cutbacks "in a general way" when they meet off the coast of Malta on Saturday and Sunday.

But, he added, "in writing, I have made clear to Gorbachev in my handwriting, so he knows it comes from me, not the bureaucracy — that this is not a summit for arms control agreement."

Bush said it was very important for the allies to know "I'm not going to go off and prematurely jump out there and try to grandstand by committing them to something."

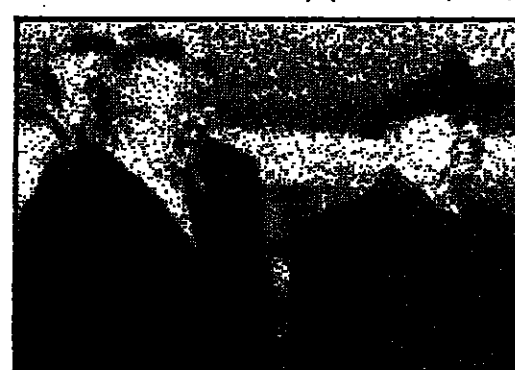
After the two-day summit, Bush will fly to Brussels on Dec 4 to brief Nato leaders on the discussions.



Soviet missile cruiser Slava angles into position in front of the USS cruiser Belknap. (Reuters wirephoto)



Bush briefs reporters in the White House Oval office concerning the details of his summit with Gorbachev. (Reuters wirephoto)



Gorbachev (right) with Andreotti shortly after his arrival at Rome. (Reuters wirephoto)

Parliament restores Azerbaijan's powers

Armenians warn of unrest

MOSCOW, Nov 29, (Reuters): The Soviet parliament has restored most of Azerbaijan's powers over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, angering Armenians who warned of more regional unrest.

Parliament said it was seeking to stabilise the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, populated mainly by Armenians although it is part of Azerbaijan.

More than 120 people have died in clashes in the past two years over the area.

Deputies voted overwhelmingly yesterday to dissolve a special Kremlin commission that had administered Nagorno-Karabakh since January, enabling its Armenian majority to ignore the Azerbaijani government in Baku.

Now Nagorno-Karabakh's former government and Communist Party organisations, dormant since January, are to be restored, along with all their links to Azerbaijan.

The special Kremlin commission will be replaced with another commission appointed by the Parliament in Moscow, but it will have less power — mainly overseeing the deployment of some 5,000 troops sent to the area last year to keep order.

Armenians said the decision had put Nagorno-Karabakh right back in the position of two years ago when the Armenian majority demanded unification with neighbouring Armenia, sparking ethnic clashes.

Armenian President Grant Voskanyan said yesterday's

vote, passed by an overwhelming majority after Armenian deputies walked out, took no account of their viewpoint.

"We cannot agree with the provisions, because neither the Supreme Soviet nor the government of Azerbaijan, by their own admission, control the situation in the autonomous region," he told Moscow radio.

"We believe the only way out is to keep the direct administration committee and keep Nagorno-Karabakh subordinate to the Union government," he said.

Azerbaijani sources meanwhile said they were pleased with the decision to dissolve the Kremlin committee, which had clearly frustrated the Azerbaijani government by keeping the rebellious territory in a special administrative haven.

Swiss bill against drug money

BERN, Nov 29, (AP): The lower house of the Swiss Parliament has unanimously passed a bill to make money-laundering a crime.

The proposed legislation, which if approved by the upper house would become law by mid-1990, is aimed at increasing the powers of the authorities against organised crime's use of Swiss banks to conceal its transactions.

The new law would make premediated money-laundering a crime, punishable by fines of up to one million Swiss francs and prison terms of up to five years for the worst violations.

But the Parliament rejected by 124 to 64 votes an amendment to make "negligent" money-laundering a criminal offence on the grounds that it would have unfairly burdened bank and postal employees.

Radio Islam throttled

STOCKHOLM, Nov 29, (P): The Swedish local radio board has suspended the broadcasting licence of an Islamic radio station following the conviction of its owner on charges of defaming Jews.

The decision was taken yesterday after Radio Islam's owner and leading broadcaster, Ahmed Rami, was sentenced to six months in prison for airing "disparaging and deeply offending" remarks about Jews and the Jewish religion on his local station.

A district court reached its verdict two weeks ago after an eight-week trial during which the prosecution called in distinguished clergymen to argue that Rami's programmes were anti-Semitic.

Chem arms accord likely

Soviets hopeful of inspection

GENEVA, Nov 29, (Reuters): A UN-sponsored disarmament body should be able to agree by the end of January on how to conduct inspections to ensure observance of an international treaty banning chemical weapons, a Soviet negotiator said today.

Sergei Batsanov, chief Soviet negotiator on chemical weapons, said 1989 had seen significant movement towards a ban but reiterated his country's worry that the United States might want to keep producing the weapons after a treaty comes into force.

Speaking a day after two sets of talks on the subject resumed, bilaterally with a US team and multilaterally in the conference on disarmament's chemical weapons committee, he said he believed a treaty was possible by the end of 1990.

The question of verifying that countries do not cheat has been the thorniest in the negotiations and is still not resolved. But Batsanov said the chemical weapons committee should be able to agree soon on an inspections protocol.

"Hopefully we will be able to bring (it) to conclusion so as to include it in January in the draft convention," he said.

This agreement would describe what foreign inspectors would be allowed to do and see when challenging a country at short notice to prove they were not producing or storing poison gas.

The principle of on-site

verification is being used in the 1987 US-Soviet intermediate range nuclear weapons treaty and delegates say its acceptance for chemical weapons has brought a treaty within reach.

Batsanov said the current three-week session would still have to discuss a range of verification measures going beyond challenge inspections.

The negotiations would be endangered, however, if the United States sought to produce even a small amount of chemical weapons after a convention took effect, he said.

"If anyone... now comes up with a proposal to allow production of chemical weapons after the convention enters into force, it would be a very serious and dangerous blow to the negotiations."

US negotiators were not immediately available for comment.

Officials in Washington have said that the US wants to retain two per cent of its chemical weapons, and has the right to keep making these weapons, until all nations capable of producing chemical weapons have signed the treaty — Even if this is after the treaty comes into force.

Batsanov said US had not formally presented any proposal to this effect.

The US position stems from its desire to be able to deter maverick states from producing or using poison gas.

Lubbers warns W. Germany against going alone in reunification

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Nov 29, (AP): The Dutch government today welcomed Chancellor Helmut Kohl's plan for reunifying West and East Germany but warned Bonn against making the projected confederation a "specifically German affair."

Premier Ruud Lubbers also told Parliament there were no immediate plans for extra cuts in defence spending because of the tumbling of the iron curtain.

Lubbers said he saw a clear role for the 12-nation European common market in making sure that German reunification "won't some time turn into a specifically German affair."

The Dutch leader spoke on the second day of a parliamentary debate on the policy platform for his new centre-left government, which combines Lubbers' Christian Democrats and the Labour Party of Finance Minister Wim Kok.

Lubbers told the legislature that he would be "the last person to complain" about Kohl's 10-point plan, which he called an "orientation... a political message" on Germany's future as a united nation.

"I don't want to give the impression that we're regarding this with a kind of fear" of renewed German political and military domination over Europe, Lubbers said.

However he added that "it's important

that the European political effort (for East-West détente) go at the same tempo... for it to be first of all a European healing process, with the two German states following suit."

Kohl said yesterday that his plan was for an eventual confederation between the two Germans but stressed it would be part of the overall movement for increased co-operation between the two European power blocks.

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INTERNATIONAL

ARAB TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 1, 1989

Prague promises free elections within a year

Changes in polls law will be made

PRAGUE, Nov 29, (Reuters): A senior Communist official today promised free elections, possibly within 12 months, as the Czechoslovak Parliament prepared to abolish the party's 40-year-old monopoly of power.

"Free and Democratic elections... will be held on a date which will be declared by the federal assembly," Politburo member Vasil Mohorita told a news conference.

Mohorita said the government would prepare changes in election law so that a national poll would reflect popular expectations. Asked how

soon elections could be held, he replied: "I think they are possible within 12 months."

The 350-member assembly was to vote at a historic session in the afternoon on scrapping the constitutional guarantee of the Communist Party's leading role in society.

After party chief Karel Urbanek said yesterday that the communists had no choice but to give up their dominance, it seemed to be a foregone conclusion that the required two-thirds majority would vote in favour.

The assembly, housed in a forbidding mass of grey concrete and steel, has been a rubber stamp tool of communist control for the past 40 years apart for the brief "Prague Spring" liberalisation of 1968.

Mohorita declined to state explicitly that the party would give up power if defeated in the election. But he implied in his remarks that the communists would respect the outcome of the poll.

"As the Communist Party we will compete for as many seats as possible, but I can hardly tell you now whether it will be a majority or a minority."

Asked whether the party would give up the key defence and interior ministries, Mohorita said: "The new government will reflect the result of the election."

Urbanek, giving way under the pressure of 11 straight days of protests and strikes involving millions of citizens, warned party activists that they could lose an election.

"If we do not convince the party members and the people in this country that we are able to change ourselves and realise our aims in the framework of democracy, then we will lose," Urbanek warned.

Urbanek also said the party had to reassess events leading to the Warsaw Pact invasion which smashed the 1968 reforms.

It was the first time the party leadership had suggested that the official reason for the invasion — to crush a counter-revolution — was unsustainable.

But rejected demands by the opposition movement, Civic Forum for dissolution of the party's paramilitary force and its nationwide cells, the sale of party buildings and the resignation of communist directors of state enterprises.

Civic Forum has warned that if a new government promised by Prime Minister Ladislav Adamcuk did not come up with an adequate programme for free elections and freedom of the press, speech and religion by the end of the year, it would force him out of office.

The opposition movement has also demanded the resignation by Dec 10 of President Gustav Husak, who helped plan the 1968 invasion. At 76, Husak is physically frail but mentally alert.

Strike committees across the country have been told by Civic Forum to remain vigilant, ready to bring the workers out again if the authorities do not make good their pledges to restore democracy.

Slovenia protest

Move to halt rally

BELGRADE, Nov 29, (AP): Slovenia police imposed emergency measures today in a bid to prevent demonstrators from the Republic of Serbia from holding a rally in Slovenia.

Protest organisers told the Associated Press by telephone they were determined to proceed with the Dec 1 rally despite the Slovenian measures.

A police statement carried by the state Tanjug news agency said all vehicles carrying Serbian demonstrators to the Slovenian capital of Ljubljana, where the rally is scheduled to be held, would be stopped.

Another statement by the federal police warned that all citizens were obliged to respect and carry out measures imposed by state organs.

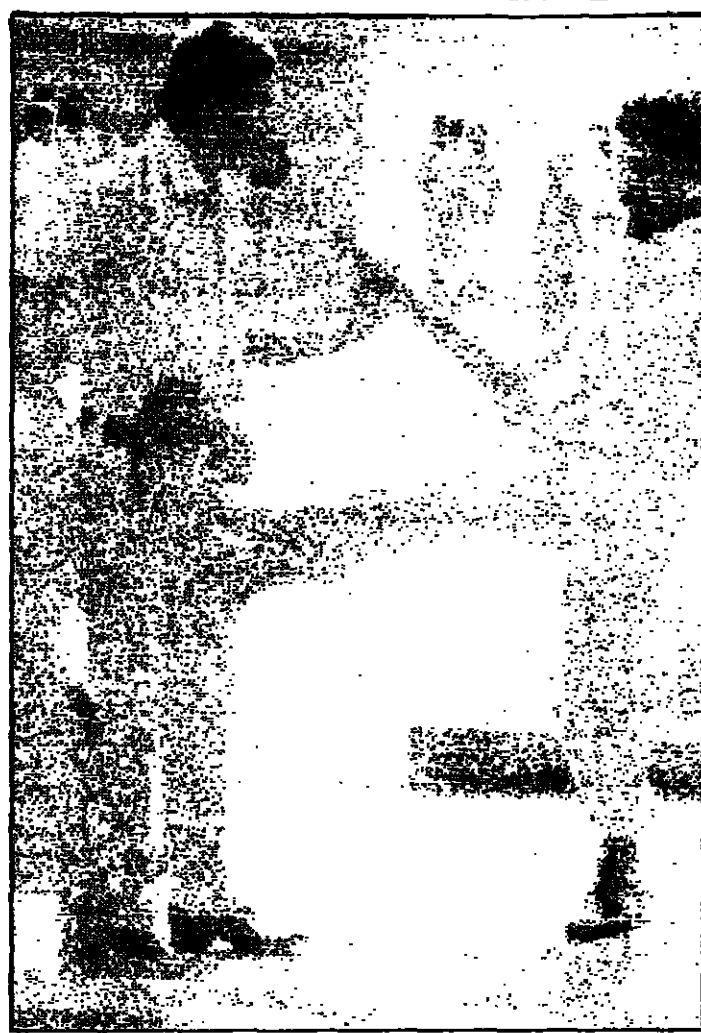
"Contravention of (law) could have serious consequences for public order," the federal police statement said.

Slovenian authorities previously have implied they would use force against demonstrators.

MANILA, Nov 29, (Reuters): A former priest who now heads a tribal militia in the northern Philippines said today he would campaign against a government autonomy plan for the area.

"We have now programmed a region-made campaign for the 'no' vote," said former Roman Catholic priest Conrado Balweg, leader of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA).

Survey results published in Manila have shown substantial support for autonomy in five northern provinces where a referendum on the issue will be held on Dec 27.



'Don't do it again'

Paramilitary police with automatic rifles patrolled streets of Dhaka today during a strike called by the opposition to force the resignation of President Hussain Muhammad Ershad.

Police said 1,000 paramilitary reinforcements joined 4,000 already in the Bangladesh capital as the 12-hour stoppage called by the Awami League got underway.

Most shops and factories were closed. Picture shows a policeman kicking a teenager caught while trying to damage vehicles during the strike. (Reuters wirephoto)

Exposed: Cory govt ineptness

Cojuangco return

MANILA, (AP): Like a jack-in-the box, President Corazon Aquino's exiled cousin popped up in the Philippines last week. His surprise return has triggered charges of mismanagement and ineptness in the government, which unofficially banished him.

Business tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, 54, who left the country in 1986 aboard the same plane that took ousted ruler Ferdinand Marcos into exile, returned secretly last Friday with a passport issued by the Philippine consulate in Los Angeles.

Cojuangco said he returned to clear his name of charges that he helped Marcos steal billions of dollars.

The incident has led to calls for Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus to resign and for a shake-up in the Department of Foreign Affairs, which includes many employees appointed by Marcos' brother-in-law, Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez.

Political commentators also say the Cojuangco affair raises questions about the government's ability to develop and enforce policy.

"What's wrong with this... operation we call a government is that none of the chiefs get fired if they spoil the broth," wrote columnist Max Soliven in the Philippine Star newspaper.

"As a result, the citizens and customers get food poisoning while nobody gets blamed for it," Soliven said.

Cojuangco had never been formally barred from the country. But his passport and those of the Marcos family were cancelled in 1986, and there had been an informal understanding within the Aquino administration that he could not come home.

"The fuss seems to be all because the government did not want Cojuangco back and yet he managed to get back," Rev. Joaquin Bernas, a university president and former Aquino adviser, wrote in the Manila Chronicle. "He managed to make the government look foolish."

Aquino has barred the Marcos family from returning and refuses to allow the remains of the former president, who died Sept 28 in Hawaii, to be buried here. Aquino has said their return would jeopardise national security, but critics claim the ban has no legal basis.

"The alarm of officials (after Cojuangco's return) actually

derived from confusion within the Aquino government concerning its policy on the return of Marcos and those who had been associated with the former strongman," wrote columnist Petronilo Daroy in the Manila Standard.

"It was never clarified whether the ban was being enforced as part of revolutionary pretences of the Aquino administration or whether it had any legal force in terms of parliamentary rules of an elite democracy which the Aquino government said it was trying to restore," he added.

On Monday, Manglapus acknowledged that the Los Angeles consulate issued Cojuangco a passport last month without his knowledge. At the time, Manglapus was on a secret visit to Taiwan, a move that was criticised by the Beijing government.

Aquino has banned cabinet visits to Taiwan without her prior consent. She never said whether Manglapus made the trip with her permission.

"I have always thought that Secretary Manglapus does not know what is going on in his department," fumed Rep. Ramon Mitra, Speaker of the House of Representatives and a former business partner of Cojuangco. "I have said before that until now, Kokoy's people are the ones running the Department of Foreign Affairs."

Aquino has not indicated whether she plans to replace Manglapus, who resigned from the Senate in 1987 to accept the post. Manglapus has been designated as chief negotiator in upcoming talks on extending the lease on the six US military bases in the Philippines, which expires in 1991.

The consul-general in Los Angeles, Leonides Caday, is also on the negotiating panel.

The government's chief attorney said today he would file 12 more criminal cases against President Corazon Aquino's estranged cousin, an associate of Ferdinand Marcos who slipped into the country last week.

Solicitor General Francisco Chavez also said the government faced resistance from agencies assigned to find out how Cojuangco, 54, was able to sneak into the country last Friday.

Cojuangco, Mrs Aquino's first cousin, fled the Philippines in 1986 in the same US military aircraft that took former President Marcos into exile.

Lanka district vacated

Indians leave

COLOMBO, Nov 29, (Reuters): Indian troops pulled out from a second Sri Lankan district today under a phased withdrawal plan, residents said.

Residents of Batticaloa, 240 km (150 miles) east of Colombo, said 400 to 500 trucks loaded with men and equipment left the town early in the morning.

Between 5,000 and 6,000 Indian troops left Ampara district in the eastern province on Oct 24 in the first stage of the withdrawal.

New Delhi has promised to recall by next month all or most of the remaining 30,000 troops sent to Sri Lanka in July 1987 to help crush a Tamil separatist rebellion.

The remaining Indians are in Trincomalee in the east and in the northern region. Military sources said about 3,000 soldiers were due to leave for home today from Trincomalee port.

The Batticaloa resident said people feared an eruption of violence similar to events in Ampara after the Indians left.

NEWS IN BRIEF

I am God's pencil: Mother Teresa: Mother Teresa, describing her work to help the poor, says she is like a pencil and God is the author.

"I don't claim anything of the work," she said in the December 4 issue of Time Magazine. "I am like a little pencil in his hand. That is all. He does the thinking. He does the writing. The pencil has nothing to do with it."

Mother Teresa, winner of the 1979 Nobel Peace prize for her work in India, also said she sees poverty has a kind of richness and that she finds "the rich much poorer. Sometimes they are more lonely inside. They are not satisfied." (AP)

School bus drivers indicted: Officials accused 16 drivers of school buses yesterday of delivering narcotics to a variety of customers between trips taking children to and from school.

The drivers were among 29 people indicted on drug charges following a 15-month investigation. Officials said some of the bus drivers had street gang connections and sold narcotics along their regular routes between their delivery and pickup duties. (Reuters)

New international postal rates: The Universal Postal Congress yesterday announced a new system of international rates that favours books and periodicals over letters and postcards.

The rates will go into effect in 1991, said Thomas E. Leavy, assistant US Postmaster General for International Affairs. Under the new two-tier system, countries exchanging more than 150 metric tonnes of cards and letters a year will pay 24.84 gold francs (about \$9.95 US) a kilogramme (2.2 pounds), instead of the former eight gold francs (\$3.20). (AP)

European environment agency: The European Environment Agency got the go-ahead late yesterday after environment ministers from the 12 European Economic Community nations agreed on the details.

The agency should be functional by January 1991 if it gets rapid and final approval from the European parliament, according to Carlo Ripa Di Meana, the EEC's commissioner for the environment.

1990 MITSUBISHI-AL MULLA MOTOR SHOW

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Prize No. 5	KD. 1500 CASH	Coupon No. 1982
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Prize No. 8	Coupon No. 2171
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Prize No. 10	Coupon No. 2508
Prize No. 11	Coupon No. 2155
Prize No. 12	Coupon No. 2324
Prize No. 13	Coupon No. 2373
Prize No. 14	Coupon No. 2556
Prize No. 15	Coupon No. 2620
Prize No. 16	Coupon No. 2085
Prize No. 17	Coupon No. 2003
Prize No. 18	Coupon No. 2609
Prize No. 19	Coupon No. 2603
Prize No. 20	Coupon No. 2424
Prize No. 21	Coupon No. 2567
Prize No. 22	Coupon No. 1979
Prize No. 23	Coupon No. 2115
Prize No. 24	Coupon No. 2629
Prize No. 25	Coupon No. 2540
Prize No. 26	Coupon No. 2381
Prize No. 27	Coupon No. 2594
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Legitimate refugees

Vietnamese children, who are considered legitimate refugees and are therefore eligible for resettlement in another country, pass through a perimeter fence at the Shan Shui Po refugee camp in Hong Kong.

There are currently 57,000 Vietnamese boat people being housed in Hong Kong, 13,000 of which are legitimate refugees. (Reuters wirephoto)

Charges renewed 11 more killed in black infighting

AMSTERDAM, Nov 29, (AP): A man claiming to be the cousin of South Africa's defence minister has sought asylum here after accusing his former army unit of routinely killing and torturing civilians, the Dutch anti-apartheid movement said yesterday.

The man, identified as Corp. Mervyn Misan, said he had served with an elite reconnaissance unit known as Force 5.3, part of South Africa's special forces, according to an announcement by the Dutch group.

Malan, 27, told members of the group that Force 5.3 engaged in systematic "battering... bombing of villages and... burning of women and children" in Namibia and Angola, the announcement quoted him as saying.

Two senior cabinet ministers began today to study an official report about alleged police death squads, and the state radio urged a public inquiry to erase any doubts about a possible cover-up in Johannesburg.

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 29, (Reuters): Eleven people were killed, three of them shot by police, in an upsurge of violence in the black townships of South Africa's Natal province.

The 11 dead, listed in a brief daily police report, brought the toll to 31 in the past three days, rivaling the worst periods in a two-year-old conflict between the Zulu movement Inkatha and the leftist United Democratic Front (UDF).

The most serious incident was in the huge township of Mpumalanga, between the port city of Durban and Pietermaritzburg, the Natal provincial capital.

Police said two people were killed in a clash between two groups. Police intervened, were shot at, and killed three others.

Police said today they were sending reinforcements into

Mpumalanga. Previously the army has been deployed in the most seriously affected townships, and while the violence has subsided, it has not been entirely eradicated.

Authorities attribute the fighting to the feud, which has killed at least 2,000 people in the past two years, between Mangosuthu Buthelezi's politically moderate Inkatha and the UDF.

Inkatha and the UDF are struggling for control of the townships.

■ Cape Town's white managers want to declare the city an apartheid-free zone and are willing to go to court to do so, a spokesman said today.

City spokesman Ted Doman said the 34-member city council voted yesterday to reject President F.W. De Klerk's plan to open a small section of the inner city to residents of all races.

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Four-year tenure for public officials

272 duplications of functions

A LAW to limit the holding of a leading post in the public sector to four years has been issued by the Council of Ministers, but ministers were excluded.

The Undersecretary of the Civil Service Commission, Abdul Aziz Al Zaben, said that the law was considered a first step in carrying out administrative development in the public sector.

He said that administrative development will begin with the top officials and continue down to the ordinary employees.

The government set up a higher committee headed by His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister in 1984 to develop the administrative staff.

The committee presented its final report in 1986, and included recommendations and programmes to develop the administrative staff.

Zaben said that decisions taken to develop the civil servants were being implemented, but the development procedures were being carried out gradually.

The main aim of the development of administrative staff was to improve the performance of work at the government sector, he said.

The development was meant to reconsider the work systems, promotions, appointment policies and methods of evaluation of performance, he said.

He added that government authorities have no system for training newly-appointed Kuwaiti public servants to qualify them for their jobs.

He said the Civil Service Commission established a new project to train and qualify the newly appointed employees. The project was expected to serve more than 3,000 Kuwaiti employees during 1990, it was expected to commence in the first quarter of the new year.

He said that authorities will give priority to sorting out functions among the different government authorities as a kind of development of administrative staff.

They will also start establishing development units and committees at every ministry or government establishment. The Civil Service Commission Dr Naser Al Sania, said that sorting out the functions among government authorities was the important issue.

There were 272 cases of duplication of functions in which 47 government authorities were involved.

He added that the Council of Ministers is issuing decisions to sort out these functions.

He said it was time for Kuwaitis to replace non-Kuwaiti employees.

He said the meetings of the senior officials to benefit from their experience and information about administrative development and to exchange these experiences between them and the Civil Service Council, that organises such meetings began on March 27. Six meetings were held, and attended by 128 senior officials from 46 ministries and government establishments.

The last meeting for senior officials will be held before the end of this year and will be attended by officials who did not attend the previous meetings, he said.

The meetings focused on training manpower and planning for training programmes for Kuwaiti employees Zaben said.

Meanwhile, the assistant undersecretary for administrative development affairs at the Civil Service Commission Dr Naser Al Sania, said that sorting out the functions among government authorities was the important issue.

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GCC desalination research fund called for

Water, power consumption to be rationalised

THE chairman of the board of the International Desalination Establishment Dr Adel Ahmad Boshnaq has called on GCC countries to set up a special fund to support research activities in water desalination, and to co-ordinate efforts in this respect.

He told a local daily that the participation in the first conference by the Society of Water Science and Technology to be held in Dubai during October 1990, would enable GCC citizens and those interested in water-related issues to participate in dialogue and exchange of information.

Boshnaq said that the water desalination problem reflected the need to accord the environment further care and attention, pointing out that the Gulf was a closed lake that needed protection of its marine environment amidst the increasing dangers of pollution, including water and electricity plants.

He further called for a reconsideration of electrical tariffs levied on major consumers whereby to reduce government support in order to encourage these consumers to economise and rationalise power consumption and select the best ways to produce fresh water.

Boshnaq added that future efforts would concentrate on cost-effectiveness pointing to the current major co-operation between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in the field of water desalination, adding that the Saudi kingdom had been a pioneer in the field of manufacturing water desalination equipment and that it was currently planning to produce the film used in the process.

GCC states and the Arab world had the technology and techno-industrial know-how to manufacture all types of desalination plants, Boshnaq said.

THE relevant personnel at the Ministry of Education were still involved in a study for unifying the secondary education systems, according to a senior ministry official.

The official said that the general idea was to apply the term-system at the secondary education level, as was done in most Arab countries, and that the study was based on a comparison of the existing systems to avoid inconveniences of application.

He said that according to the study, the system used in Bahrain was the best, and that the ministry was planning to establish a system similar to that of Bahrain.

The official added that the ministry was waiting to review the recommendations of the study, which was adopted at the conference held in Bahrain last April, and to allow for possible utilisation of these recommendations.

Meanwhile, a representative of the Ministry of Education Sheikh Al Misalam has said that Education Ministry is now teaching dangers of Aids in the biology text for the 4th class at the secondary stage. It will organise 8 cultural seminars for Aids for pupils of schools. The ministry is also planning to teach dangers of Aids in the text books of Arabic language and Islamic Education, he added.

He said that the 2nd international day of Aids control aim at concentrating on youths who are the most victims of the disease. She added that statistics of WHO showed that 20 per cent of patients of Aids in the world are between 20 and 30 years old. WHO estimated that about two million people under 25 years old are infected with Aids.

He said that the next book exhibition will be held at the new hall next year to give more publishers an opportunity to participate.

He added that the council will prepare a study of the method used in distributing council publications.

He indicated that several persons were sent abroad on scholarships to collect information on traditions of countries.

He said that books on general knowledge and international culture were among one of the series owned by the council and considered to be the biggest in the world.

Teachers to get istimaras

AN official source at the Kuwait General Traffic Department, has said that learners licences for teachers at private schools would be given regardless of their qualifications.

The source said that all teachers at government or private sector schools should contact the traffic departments of their respective residential areas to complete application procedures, pointing out that their licences need not be endorsed by General Traffic Department.

He said that all traffic departments in the country's five governorates had instructions to accept applications by teachers for learners licences to lessen pressure on the department.

Meanwhile, the director general of the Kuwait Driving Learning Company Sager Al Jasser has said that the establishment of a driver's learning school at the capital governorate's site is currently progressing according to a pre-set time schedule which ends in August 1990, and then the building will be ready for furnishing and operation in early 1991.

He told a local daily that the opening of driving schools would facilitate the obtaining of a learners permit, adding that this would be subject to conditions and standards of the General Traffic Department.

He said that the proposed driving training period would vary from one person to another, as trainees would have to undertake an initial driving test to determine their level and decide how many training sessions they needed.



Greening at PAAET

THE planting of trees at faculties and training centres of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) is part of the afforestation campaign.

It opened under the patronage of the director-general, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Mihalhan at the faculty of health sciences for girls.

The ceremony was attended by the dean of students and trainees affairs, Hisham Al Mutawa, dean of the faculty Fouziya Mulla Hussein, and senior officials.

Dr Mihalhan planted a number of saplings at the entrance of the faculty.

Mutawa said that the office of the dean of students and trainees affairs had prepared a timetable for planting trees at squares of faculties and training centres of the authority in co-operation with the Public Authority for Agricultural Wealth and Fish Resources. He added that students of agricultural societies at faculties and centres would take care of the trees and plants. Picture shows Dr Mihalhan placing earth around a plant.

Velayati message conveyed to Sabah

KUWAIT, Nov 29, (Kuna): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber today received a verbal message from Iranian Foreign Minister Dr Ali Akbar Velayati.

The message was conveyed by Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Hussein Sadeqi at a meeting with Sheikh Sabah today.

Sheikh Sabah told reporters that the message explains the results of the visit to Tehran by the UN secretary-general's envoy Jan Eliasson and his talks with the Iranian officials on activating peace negotiations between Iran and Iraq and implementing the Security Council Resolution 598.

Eliasson has earlier this month made a shuttle tour between Baghdad and Tehran with the aim of reviving the peace process between Iran and Iraq.

The Iranian ambassador has recently returned from Tehran carrying a message from Velayati to Sheikh Sabah.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Sabah today received the ambassador of Cuba to Kuwait and the Indian ambassador who paid courtesy visits to Sheikh Sabah.

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KD 3m annual Kuwaiti support to charity hospital

THE head of the Palestine Charity Committee at the Islamic International Charity Organisation, Dr Amr Al Agha, has praised the support given by Kuwait to the Islamic Maqdes Hospital in Jerusalem in the Occupied West Bank.

He said that Kuwait pays KD 3 million annually to the hospital. He added that the committee sent \$500,000 to the Patients' Friends Society in Gaza Strip, beside purchasing medical equipment for a complete hospital in Jenin city of West Bank.

The committee also supervised sending 5,000 sacrifices during Eid Al Adha this year to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. These sacrifices cost about KD 210,000.

The committee is maintaining 600 Palestinian orphans in the Occupied territories, and performs its duties in supporting needy Palestinian students through a fund which was established for this purpose.

He said that donations and relief reach Palestinians in the occupied lands in many ways.

The representative of UNRWA expressed his readiness to send relief materials to people who deserve them in the occupied lands. He added that the women's branch of the committee is open to all Palestinian women who want to serve their people in the occupied lands.

The committee is now accepting winter relief materials every day until the end of this month, he said.

Dr Agha pointed out that the committee began a project to provide Palestinians in occupied Palestine with food through UNRWA which distributes foodstuffs to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He added that the committee succeeded in collecting about \$500,000 as the first installment of the project. The money was sent to UNRWA which bought foodstuffs and distributed them in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The UNRWA sent photographs about distribution of these materials. Some people who came from Palestine stressed that UNRWA distributed the foodstuffs perfectly, he said.

Agha said that the Israeli war minister threatened to put an end to the Palestinian uprising (intifada) by three means: the first by using force to kill Palestinians and destroy houses; the second by sending large numbers of Palestinians to prisons as well as expelling them outside Palestine; and the third by using the weapon of starting out. He added that hungry people cannot continue their struggle against occupation forces. The committee thought of a way to save their people from hunger and began the project to give them the basic foodstuffs to be able to continue their intifada, he said.

Agha pointed out that the committee began its activities only 14 months ago but had achieved good results in supporting Palestinians in Occupied Palestine. It maintained about 600 Palestinian orphans and 200 students there. He added that Kuwait's Education Ministry provided it with about 50,000 pieces of school uniform to send to pupils in occupied Palestine. It also received winter clothes donated by citizens and expatriates in Kuwait. All these clothes are sent to the occupied lands by UNRWA, he said.

Past and future at Bahrain's car and boat show

A GLITTERING array of top-notch cars and the latest in boats and marine leisure equipment will go on display this week at the Autumn Fair '89 Motor and Boat show at the Exhibition Centre, Bahrain.

Top of the range cars such as Rolls Royce, BMW and Audi will be featured at the show. We also have Range Rover, Volkswagen, Renault, Peugeot and Daimler among our exhibitors and we expect a tremendous response from visitors" said Stephen Key of Arabian Exhibition Management the organisers of the show.

Standard Chartered Bank will be on hand with their financial services for visitors who want to buy cars and boats.

The motor section of the show also includes a vintage car display featuring over twelve of the best-maintained period cars on the island. These include a 1952 Pontiac, a 1957 Ford Thunderbird and a 1969 Jaguar E type among others.

"We have been very happy with the response to our call for vintage cars for the show. The vintage cars are in excellent condition and we are sure they will add an extra dimension to the show," commented Mr Key.

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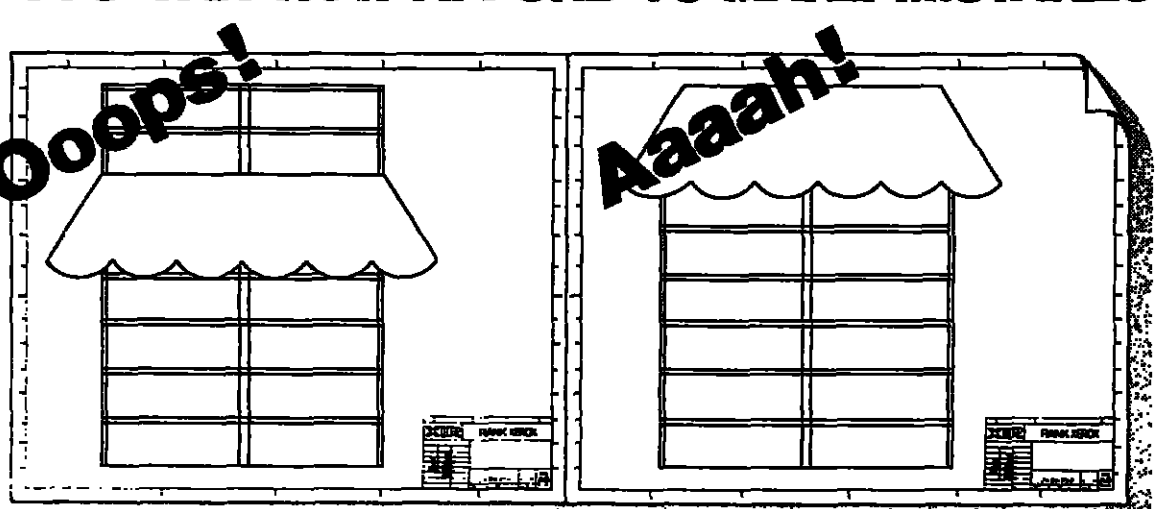
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Budget deficit may pose danger: Ibrahim

Initiative to tackle Palestinian cause

The minister was seen off at the airport by ministry Undersecretary Majid Al Shaheen, Palestine Ambassador to Kuwait Awmi Battash and other officials.

The seminar opened on November 26. During the meetings participants had debated the experiments of nine Arab countries in this field, including Kuwait, Jordan, South Yemen, the UAE, Somalia and Sudan.

The seminar was attended by leading Arab intellectuals and specialists in the field of finance and public budgets.

The Union

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

MEN are great only if they are determined to be so. — Charles de Gaulle, French statesman-general (1890-1970).

Summit will tackle momentous themes

LONDON, (Reuters): US President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev have billed their Malta summit next weekend as an informal get-together.

But the subject bound to dominate their talks could hardly be more momentous — the collapse of the post-World War Two structure in Europe.

From the River Elbe that divides the two Germans in the west to the Turkish frontier in the east, the East Europeans are rising up — peacefully — against the communist rule installed in the region four decades ago.

The communists are already out of power in Poland and free elections are imminent in Hungary. Mass demonstrations in East Germany and Czechoslovakia are forcing their governments in the same direction.

Bulgaria's veteran leader Todor Zhivkov has been sacked and his successor has promised reforms. Only Romania has resisted the changes which have spurred increasing liberalisation and fired nationalist separatism in the Soviet Union itself.

The speed of the transformation could scarcely have been imagined a year ago when Gorbachev last met Bush and outgoing President Ronald Reagan over lunch on Governors Island in New York harbour.

Bush has said that during the shipboard summit off the Maltese coast he will seek Gorbachev's assurance that the reforms in Eastern Europe will continue and will tell him that he does not plan to exploit the situation to undermine Moscow.

Soviet officials, traditionally reluctant to claim responsibility for their Warsaw Pact allies, are saying only that Gorbachev will press for the economic rewards from the West that he feels the new situation in Europe warrants.

In fact, despite the unfortunate rhyming of Malta with Yalta, the 1945 allied summit that locked Eastern Europe into the Soviet sphere of influence, neither superpower leader now appears willing or able to affect the changes going on there.

But equally, neither can escape the consequences of what is happening for the East-West balance of power as the Warsaw Pact slides into decay and the prospect of German reunification looms on the horizon.

Some Western experts say the pact is now virtually useless since the liberalising countries simply would not fight. Others say the alliance's command structures and deployed forces remain in place and must continue to be taken seriously.

In any case the weakening of the pact, as the ideological cement of Communism that held it together crumbles away, need not put Gorbachev in as weak a position as it would appear.

He could turn it to his advantage if he can negotiate over the next few years the dismantling of both Europe's military alliance, a long-standing Kremlin aim.

Western leaders have always rejected this proposal but public sentiment that Nato has outlived its usefulness is bound to grow if the Soviet threat is seen as decreasing.

Nato's problem, like Moscow's, is to maintain both alliances until they can negotiate cuts in Europe's armed forces that will minimise the threat of conflict on the continent. This gives it a vested interest in seeing the fact, its adversary for the past three decades, continue in being.

"We must always safeguard our liberty and stand by Nato and the Warsaw Pact structure," British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said in Washington last week.

Some reductions, including a cut of 30,000 men in the 300,000-strong US contingent in Europe, will come if, as expected, the East-West force reduction talks in Vienna reach agreement by the second half of next year.

But the pace of change in Eastern Europe appears to be outstripping the arms negotiations and the talk in Nato capitals is now of a possible second phase of Vienna talks that could involve more sweeping cuts.

Newsweek magazine said this week that Bush, driven by plans to scale down the huge American defence budget, was considering cutting US troops in Europe to 100,000 men by the mid-1990s, though it said he was unlikely to propose this at Malta.

Western experts are speculating meanwhile that Gorbachev may come up with reduction proposals of his own, possibly in naval forces which are excluded from the Vienna talks.

Parallel with the arms dilemma is the problem of Germany which assumed major proportions after East Germany opened its border with the West this month and set off on the road to free elections. In a move that appeared designed to put the German question firmly on the Malta agenda, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl on Tuesday proposed a federation with the East as part of a plan for ultimate German reunification.

Since the front-line troops of both alliances are deployed in the two Germanys, talks of reunification poses obvious military problems for both superpowers. The political and economic complications are almost as formidable.

Neither Bush nor Gorbachev has ruled out reunification in the long term and they are likely to seek comfort in Kohl's statement that it can only come about in a European context.



Israeli soldiers patrol the West Bank. (Reuters wirephoto)

Israelis oppose presence in occupied territories

Soldiers refuse to serve

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (Reuters): At just 19, Amit Lewenhoff has the makings of a model Israeli soldier. A star in basic training, he was recommended for a tank commanders' course.

But when posted to the occupied West Bank, he refused to go.

Opposed to Israel's presence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Lewenhoff is one of a growing number of soldiers jailed as conscientious objectors for refusing to serve there during nearly two years of a Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

The leftist Yesh Gvul movement — its name means, "there's a limit" — says 94 of the soldiers have gone to jail.

The army puts the total at 69. Both agree seven were conscripts under 21. Although they dispute the total, the army and Yesh Gvul agree the rest were reservists.

Army officers admit privately the phenomenon is far more widespread than the courts-martial indicate. Hundreds of other soldiers avoid duty in the territories by persuading their commanders to post them inside Israel.

Yesh Gvul activist Peretz Kidron, 56, who first refused to serve in the territories in 1974, said:

"I take literally the name of the army, which is the Israel defence forces. I don't see serving in the territories as serving Israel's defence."

"This is an army of occupation and repression and I refuse to play any part in it," he said.

The issue is controversial in a country where nearly all Jewish men are drafted for three years from age 18 and then called up for annual reserve

duty to age 54.

Polls show the army is Israel's most revered institution, though it faces world-wide accusations of using excessive force against the 1.7 million Palestinians waging the revolt in the occupied territories.

In its war in Lebanon from 1982 to 1985, Israel rarely refused duty in the territories until the uprising erupted in December 1987 and clashes with stone-throwing civilians became a daily affair.

Lewenhoff sparked a furore in 1987 when he led a group of 16 army recruits who wrote to Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin warning: "If ordered to take part in repressive actions, we will be forced to refuse."

"We were all born after 1967 when the Israeli army in essence turned from a defensive army into a conquering and oppressive army," they wrote, referring to the capture of the occupied territories in the 1967 Middle East war.

After jailing Lewenhoff for some 100 days, against an average of 24 days for conscientious objectors, the army reassigned him to a post inside Israel.

Formed in 1982 to oppose the invasion of Lebanon, Yesh Gvul now works to end the occupation of the territories.

It wants the government to drop its refusal to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

"There's a limit to obedience even if you live in a

democratic country," said group spokesman Amnon Karmon, an army sergeant jailed for a total of 49 days after refusing to serve in Lebanon in 1983 and in the territories last year.

There are varying degrees of conscientious objection.

Some reservists will train in the territories or guard a supplies base, but refuse contact with Palestinians that would mean they were enforcing Israel's "iron fist" policy against the uprising.

Activists say conscientious objection is gnawing away at the army.

As proof they cite a letter from a brigade commander warning reservists that anyone refusing to serve in the territories would be punished severely.

But military officials say their surveys show a rise in motivation, particularly among conscripts, since Israel withdrew most of its troops from Lebanon in 1985.

A military spokesman said: "As far as the army is concerned, the place and time to voice one's personal view is at the ballot box."

Some objectors find prison an ideal place for voicing their views. Karmon, 33, a philosophy student, said he discussed his ideas with soldiers jailed for other offences.

"The time in jail is maybe the most important

Algerian youth live in despair

ALGIERS, (Reuters): Kamel heard about the boat taking jobless Algerians to Australia from a friend at Algiers port.

The boat and the well paying job in the Antipodes are illusions, although thousands of young Algerians still talk excitedly about the ship that came to take them to greener pastures but never berthed.

Algeria and Australia emphatically deny a boat ever came. But the fiction persists, a glimmer of hope for young men without jobs, flats or money whose despair exploded into rage in October 1988 riots that changed the face of Algeria.

People under 30 form three-quarters of Algeria's exploding population of 24 million and their anger, calmed but not defused by sweeping democratic reforms, remains a potential time bomb.

"Their numbers, and their needs, are extremely large, and we have not dealt with them in time," Youth and Sports Minister Abdelkader Boudjemaa told Reuters. "Evidently, not seeing anything come, they despair."

According to Kamel, the Australian ship docked at the nearby Spanish island port of Palma and hundreds of Algerians travelled over to meet it.

Last month a crowd of unemployed youngsters gathered by the Algiers central post office when a van arrived carrying foreigners who began — or were rumoured to have begun — enrolling Algerians for high-paying jobs in Australia.

"If the van ever existed, it was probably a scam," said Michael Smith of the Australian embassy in Algiers.

"The boat rumours has been going around for

years. We still get people, about once a week, calling us to say the boat has arrived and can they please have a visa."

The official Uga Labour Union puts unemployment in the general population at nearly 30 per cent. Among men under 30 who are not either students or in the army for a mandatory two-year service, the figure is probably higher.

A housing crisis means that even those with money have trouble finding a flat. Marriage, with the exorbitant costs demanded by Arab tradition, is beyond the means of many.

Sports facilities and cultural programmes are inadequate. Social, economic and sexual misery prevail, and fight at times seems the only solution.

"I always feel depressed because I can't get out. I feel like killing myself sometimes," said Kamel, a 23-year-old law student who doubts he will find a job on graduation.

Hundreds of young Algerians are believed to emigrate illegally each year to France, swelling its already huge Algerian immigrant community of 800,000. They also illegally enter other European countries and North America.

So many jobless young spend their days and nights standing against the walls of city streets that a slang term has evolved to describe them — "Haftistes", a typically Algerian mixture of the Arabic word for wall and a French suffix.

Ironically, Algeria's young people are among the best off in Africa. They are better fed, clothed, educated and travelled than their counterparts in neighbouring Morocco and Tunisia.

That may explain why they have not accepted their plummeting prospects since an economic crisis gripped the country in the early 1980s, triggered largely by falling world oil prices. A much-prized hard currency allowance that allowed Algerians to travel was withdrawn in 1988.

"We've seen the good life. We have tasted the fruit. And then they took it away. That's why we are disgusted," said Kamel.

Rioting youngsters who rampaged through the streets of Algiers and other cities in October 1988 marked the death knell of one-party rule by the National Liberation Front and launched one of the Third World's few multi-party democracies.

But the young say their lives have not improved much since President Chadli Benjedid's political reforms led to a flowering of free speech and opposition political parties unprecedented since independence in 1962.

"For years they've been telling us it will change. But we've seen nothing," said Abdelkader, a 23-year-old taxi driver.

"If someone came to me at three in the morning and told me he would take me abroad to work I would leave immediately in my pyjamas," he said.

Boudjemaa says the crisis will not last, and that the government is activating training, employment and cultural programmes to contain it.

But the young appear to have little confidence in the plans or promised economic reforms designed to revive the economy.

"I'm 23. But I've suffered like a man of 60," said Farid, who hopes to emigrate when his army service ends next year.

Poor UMO show

SIR: I am a Keralite who witnessed the final day function of "Bharat Mela" conducted by UMO.

The function was at Shanti Cooperative Auditorium where hardly 200 to 250 people assembled, out of which many were participants in various items and prize winners of different competitions. From this attendance we can easily understand the popular support to UMO.

At the beginning of the programme the so-called chairman, his wife and the general secretary were on the stage for nothing. No control or censorship was made of the programme. Repetition of the programmes on the same stage was a common feature.

The chairman made the introductory remarks, his wife inaugurated the scholarship programme and distributed prizes to the participants. Most of the announcements were made by the chairman and the secretary. In the end the chairman and a female voice (it was behind a curtain, may be his wife) sang the national anthem with full of mistakes. All were stunned and disturbed. It is the prime duty of the embassy officials to check the programme before they participate in it. Our national anthem should not be dishonoured by any body in this foreign land.

Vasudevan Nambuthiri, Safat.

Jinnah was right

SIR: Recent happenings at Ayodhya in India has proved that Qaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah's two nation theory was right. The theory states that Hindus and Muslims are two different nations and as such should live separately.

The Indian leadership contradicted the theory and said that India is one nation under secularism. Look at the secular India now which after 44 years of secularism has become so unsecular that a mosque's sanctity is being violated despite a court order banning it and the Indian government does nothing to prevent it.

It is about time that we as Muslims should take note of Indian extremism which has swallowed Kashmir and Hyderabad in the past and is now aiming at routing the Muslims from within India. A recent letter in the Arab Times has already claimed that more than 9,000 mosques are under the control of Hindus. This is all being done under the umbrella of secularism and we are silently observing it.

I believe the Islamic Conference should take up the matter of the sanctity of mosques in India with the Indian government; after all Islamic Conference Organisation was formed after the violation of the sanctity of Al Aqsa Mosque by the Jews.

T. Khalid Safat

Exaggeration

SIR: P.P. Abdul Rahmaan Peringadi states in his letter (AT Nov 22) that 9,000 mosques are under Hindu occupation from Delhi to Pakistan border. When Rahman states like this, he is not presenting the facts. There are one thousand mosques under Hindu occupation in a particular area (Delhi to Pakistan border) in the whole India that may be too much. This kind of exaggeration is not good at all.

Krishna Kumar, Safat.

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Quote me

"The people of the Third World countries will rejoice not merely at the grandiose projects of disarmament and its potential. That is all very well. But there are other issues that would give practical meaning to the current euphoria. We would welcome serious moves to isolate the apartheid regime in Southern Africa." — Sunday Mail of Harare, Zimbabwe on the forthcoming meeting between Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and US President George Bush.

"In this violent Central America in which the sons of neighbouring countries are losing their lives, the Honduran people has said 'yes' to peace and 'no' to bloodshed." — Rafael Callejas, winner of the Honduran presidential election.

"If there is going to be competition for technology and finance between the East and the South, I believe the East will win. That makes it even more necessary for the South to unite." — Ex-president of Tanzania Julius Nyerere on South-South unity.

"In the World Cup, you find countries that have a football tradition and others who go through a period of glory with a good generation of players or some outstanding individuals. That's the case with France and Holland." — Michel Platini, ex-French international on international soccer.

"It is a tragedy that at this hopeful moment so much attention is paid to yearly obligations. It is an indictment of the whole international community that it has not been possible to organise a progress of co-operation, which would give an impetus to growth." — Former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger on Third World debt threatening democracy.

"Austerity cannot be imposed on nations that are already at the margins of existence of survival." — Dr Henry Kissinger on Third World debt.

"I'm looking forward to this meeting with President Gorbachev. This trip to Malta... is to try to understand as best I can as your president the fantastic changes that are taking place, the dynamic changes that are taking place in Eastern Europe and inside the Soviet Union." — US President George Bush on his impending meeting with Gorbachev in Malta waters.

"The word amateur only contributed to confusion when Yugoslav players were signed by teams in the US National Basketball Association (NBA), and we want to avoid that in future. There is no use in keeping the term when it's obvious that players in the Yugoslav top three divisions are not amateurs." — President of Yugoslav Basketball Association on abolishing its amateur status to simplify negotiations with the NBA.

"If Boris won this tournament, very clearly he would be No. 1 in my mind and he would be No. 1 in your mind. The question is if he doesn't win and I win, what is going to happen then? Normally I would say that he should be considered the best player because he won Wimbledon and the US Open, which are the two biggest tournaments." — Ivan Lendl on the Masters tournament.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1652 — Dutch defeat English fleet off Dungeness, England.
- 1710 — Turkey declares war on Russia.
- 1782 — Americans and British sign preliminary peace articles in Paris, ending American revolutionary war.
- 1838 — Mexico declares war on France after French occupation of Vera Cruz.
- 1853 — Turkish fleet is destroyed by Russia off Sinope.
- 1918 — Transylvania proclaims union with Romania.
- 1934 — Egypt's constitution is suspended; Moroccan Nationalist Movement is founded.
- 1938 — Members of Romanian Iron Guard are shot as government attempts to destroy fascism.
- 1949 — Chinese communists capture city of Chungking.
- 1962 — U Thant of Burma is elected secretary-general of United Nations.
- 1964 — Soviet Union launches spacecraft toward planet Mars in apparent 325-million-mile race with US Mariner 4.
- 1971 — US President Richard Nixon authorizes Import-Export Bank to extend credit to Romania, ending three-year ban on US government-backed credits to communist-bloc nations.
- 1975 — US President Gerald Ford flies to China to expand new relationship begun in Peking by former President Richard Nixon three years earlier.

Parliamentary elections in Taiwan

Dancer challenges National Party veteran

KAOHSIUNG, Taiwan, (Reuters): Voters in Taiwan's port of Kaohsiung have an exotic choice of parliamentary candidates this year.

Hsu Shao-Tan, a nude dancer and self-styled "daughter of the working class," is challenging Wu Der-Mei, a tough Nationalist Party veteran who has been known to attack opponents with her stiletto heels.

Political analysts, their reactions ranging from horror to delight, say Hsu may emerge as the winner in the election on December 2, the first in which opposition parties can legally compete.

Hsu denies she is a Taiwanese version of "La Cicciolina" (little fleshy one), the born star who successfully ran for Parliament in Italy.

Instead, she says she is a serious representative of the working class and the artistic community who will "fight fists with breasts" for social justice on the island.

In a country with a strong tradition of conservative Confucian values, Hsu's political programme is certainly unorthodox.

When the 30-year-old former teacher and artist's model announced her candidacy in February, she promised to run naked through a garbage dump, plunge into a polluted river and put on strip shows.

Since the campaign began on November 17 she has gone further, vowing to strip naked in Parliament.

"I don't know much about politics, so I don't have to play by political rules," Hsu said in an interview at her tiny campaign headquarters, which she has decorated with nude self-portraits and voluminous purple curtains.

"But I understand the pain of being poor in a rich society. We don't want much, just a bit more justice."

Hsu, dismissed as a joke at the start of her campaign, has emerged as a natural politician.

Running for the tiny Labour Party, she draws thousands with political speeches that combine a slightly sense of humour with sharp criticism of the ruling Nationalist Party and vivid personal attacks on Wu.

"When I first started out, people would only show up to yell at me to take off my clothes. Now they actually listen to me," she said.

"Hsu is speaking about women's rights, urban development, the defence budget. She is a real candidate," said Yao Li-ming, a political science professor at Kaohsiung's Chung Shan University.

"If she can drag down Wu Der-Mei, she could certainly be elected," he said.

Wu, 42, is married to the son of one of Kaohsiung's political dynasties and has the full backing of the Nationalist Party machine. She is a battle-hardened fighter who claims to be "fiercer than any man."

Since first taking her parliamentary seat in 1988, Wu's combative style has made her a star in a legislature that regularly resorts to screaming, fist-fights and spitting to resolve disputes.

Her most famous altercation involved her high-heeled attack on Ju Gao-Jeng, dubbed "Taiwan's Rambo" by the nation's press for his fighting spirit. Ju later declared that Wu was a woman who "needed to be manfully subdued."

"People say I am full of political ambition, but this is not true. I just want to fight for a better society," Wu said. "I am really very service-oriented."

Her massive campaign command centre is a scene of bustling activity and obvious wealth. But she brushes off Hsu's accusations that she is a "golden cow" who is using money and connections to buy her way back into office.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

AL to discuss

TUNIS, Nov 29, (UPI): The 22-member Arab League scheduled an extraordinary meeting of its ministerial council today to examine the evolution of the Middle East peace process, a league spokesman said.

Shamir concerned

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Nov 29, (AP): Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is troubled by prospects of a reunited Germany because of memories of the Nazi slayings of six million Jews, a spokesman said today.

Another cabinet minister from Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc, Gideon Palti, criticized Poland for failing to apologize for its role in the World War II killings and said Israel should be in no hurry to resume ties with Warsaw.

Mother pleads

PARIS, Nov 29, (Reuters): The mother of a jailed pro-Iranian gunman made an impassioned plea yesterday for the life of her son said to be a grave case because of a hunger strike.

The lawyer for Lebanese Anis Naccache, serving life for double murder, released the open letter addressed to French President Francois Mitterrand and Iranian leader Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Dutch freed

AMSTERDAM, Nov 29, (Reuters): A Dutch journalist jailed in Lebanon since September on charges of espionage and possession of illegal drugs has been released, a Dutch Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

Journalist Charles Van Der Leuw, who works for Dutch and Belgian newspapers and broadcasting companies, was now out of the country and in the hands of Dutch diplomats, the spokesman added.

Waldegrave to visit

LONDON, Nov 29, (AP): British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe said today that he would visit South Yemen from Dec 3 to Dec 5 as part of a three-country tour of the Arabian Peninsula.

Cyprus talks

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 29, (KUNA): Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar will hold separate talks this week with the leaders of the two communities in Cyprus, a UN spokesman announced yesterday.

Perez de Cuellar is expected to meet President Glafos Kyprianou of Cyprus this morning and President Nikos Anastasiadis of the Greek Cypriot Republic of Northern Cyprus next Monday.

Hurd may not attend

LONDON, Nov 29, (KUNA): British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd will attend a meeting of EEC and Arab League foreign ministers in Paris next month.

But a spokesman for the Foreign Office said that Britain will certainly be represented during the meeting.

Blizzards cut off

ANKARA, Nov 29, (Reuters): Blizzards cut off 324 villages in eastern Turkey yesterday and left many of them without power, the semi-official Anadolu news agency said.

It said snow-clearing teams were working on roads in Erzurum, Erzurum, Kars and Agri provinces. Nearly half the affected villages were without power after two days of blizzards toppled poles and snapped lines.

Court restores hotel

NICOSIA, Nov 29, (Reuters): A court in Nicosia today ordered the Turkish-Cypriot government to vacate a hotel and hand it back to its British owners, court sources said yesterday.

They said Cyprus Turkish Tourism Enterprises was told to vacate the Shamir Bay Hotel north of the eastern coastal town of Famagusta, by February 28, 1990, in favour of its lawful owners, Leonard Fairclough Hotels Ltd.

Gold smuggling

KATHMANDU, Nov 29, (AP): Customs officials have arrested a Syrian and an Iranian in separate cases of alleged smuggling involving a total of more than \$200,000 worth of gold, airport customs officials said today.

The officials speaking on condition of anonymity, said Abdul Hamid of Syria was arrested Monday while trying to smuggle in 2.45 kilograms (5.4 pounds) of gold valued at 1.26 million rupees (\$4,366) on the Nepalese market.

Peace talks

NAIROBI, Nov 29, (Reuters): Ethiopia and Eritrean rebels said today they would hold full scale negotiations early next year to end Africa's longest-running war.

In a communiqué ending eight days of talks in Nairobi the government and separatist Liberation Front (LF) said former Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere and ex-US president Jimmy Carter would chair the conference.

Doctors strike

KHARTOUM, Sudan, Nov 29, (AP): The ruling junta today threatened to take measures against doctors staging a week-long strike, and blamed the protest on communists.

In a strongly-worded statement broadcast on the official Radio Darfur, the 15-member ruling Revolutionary Command Council declared the strike began Sunday, as "a treason to the nation and to the armed forces guarding the country."

Iran accepts UN talks offer

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 29, (Agencies): The UN Secretary-General said yesterday he expected planned peace talks with Iran and Iraq in mid-December to be indirect negotiations rather than face-to-face discussions between the protagonists.

In response to questions, Javier Perez de Cuellar said Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati had accepted the invitation to come to New York but he had not received a reply yet from Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

He said that if both ministers did participate, he expected to meet them separately for discussions on how to proceed towards implementing a comprehensive peace plan.

The secretary-general was speaking to reporters after briefing the Security Council on the recent shuttle mission to both countries by his personal representative, Ambassador Jan Eliasson.

After the meeting, the Security Council released a statement saying its members were convinced that with their support the UN peace plan would be implemented speedily.

Asked if both sides had been co-operative during the Eliasson mission, the secretary-general said: "They were very co-

operative with my personal representative (but) not necessarily co-operative with each other."

Diplomats said Iraq, which is expected to attend the December sessions, was not very enthusiastic about the negotiations because it wanted face to face talks with Iran.

The two are still believed to be far apart in breaking the stalemate towards reaching a permanent peace settlement since they stopped eight years of warfare in August 1988.

Iran recently said it was willing to exchange prisoners with Iraq simultane-

ously with an Iraqi withdrawal from about 1,000 miles of Iranian territory occupied since the fighting ended.

Previously Tehran had insisted on Iraqi withdrawal before considering other issues.

Iran is believed to hold over 60,000 Iraqi prisoners while Iraq is estimated to hold over 40,000 Iranians captive.

Iraq, which has suggested joint committees under UN supervision to tackle the outstanding issues, has insisted on a prisoner exchange and the reopening of the contested Shatt Al Arab waterway before other subjects are discussed.

Soviet amnesty for Afghan veterans

MOSCOW, Nov 29, (Agencies): The Soviet Parliament yesterday approved an amnesty for all Soviet soldiers who committed crimes while serving in Afghanistan, confirming that deserters could return home without fear of punishment.

The measure gave full legal force to the amnesty announced in July, 1988 by public prosecutor Alexander Sukharev.

It also appeared to be a sweeping, unconditional pardon for all crimes committed by soldiers during the Soviet Union's nine-year engagement.

"The Supreme Soviet (Parliament) today granted an amnesty to former Soviet servicemen who committed crimes while in Afghanistan," said the Tass news agency report of the decision.

"This decision confirms that all Soviet servicemen, taken prisoner or reported missing in Afghanistan, will be able to use all civil rights under the USSR constitution on their return home."

The Parliament appealed to other countries to help Soviet servicemen who are still abroad to come home.

Tass said two Soviet servicemen who had been prisoners of war, Andrei Lopukhin and Valery Prokopyuk, left Islamabad, Pakistan yesterday for the Soviet Union.

Moscow, which completed its withdrawal from Afghanistan in February, has said that over 300 Soviet soldiers captured and have not returned home.

The Kremlin believes that at least 200 of these are still alive and held by rebels in Afghanistan or Pakistan, or freed and living in the United States, Canada or West European countries.

Before the amnesty, deserters faced the possibility of long prison sentences if they returned home. The amnesty would also appear to apply to deserters caught previously and sentenced to prison.

Afghanistan's anti-communist rebels have mounted a new offensive, but this time they are pursuing good press not military successes, say rebel and Western sources.

Meanwhile, a Western diplomat who refused to be further identified said yesterday that rebel fighters can count on US financial support for at least another two years.

Last February, Soviet soldiers returned home after trying for nine years to crush the Muslim insurgency, and reaching a stalemate.

Since then, the rebels have lost most rounds in the fight for world opinion, say rebel and Western sources. Afghanistan's President Najib, has emerged as a man of compromise.

He has offered to step down in the cause of peace, although he often has contradicted that offer, claiming to be the only popularly elected leader. And his calls for a ceasefire have been rejected by Muslim insurgents who say Najib would use a lull in fighting to consolidate and regroup.

In contrast, the rebel leadership has developed an image of a group of bickering power brokers.

Two of the more powerful rebel groups have been sparring sporadically in northern Afghanistan. The seven-party rebel coalition is divided into Islamic moderates and fundamentalists.

Internal fights have characterised the nine-month-old rebel government-in-exile.

Military talks

DAMASCUS, Nov 29, (Reuters): Syrian Deputy Defence Minister Nuri Shabanov discussed military co-operation with Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas in Damascus yesterday, Syrian officials said.

They said Soviet Ambassador Alexander Zotov, who was quoted by the Washington Post last week as saying Syria should abandon its aim of strategic parity with Israel, attended the talks.

Zotov said last Wednesday that Western news reports had not told the full story of what he wanted to say.

FAO snubs US, will assist PLO

Washington 'bound to pay UN dues'

ROME, Nov 29, (Agencies): Despite US threats to cut funds, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation today voted overwhelmingly to co-operate with the PLO in offering technical assistance to Palestinians in Israeli-occupied territories.

Only the United States and Israel voted against the resolution, which was introduced by a group of Arab countries at the FAO's governing conference.

A total of 96 countries voted in favour and 14 abstained. The State Department earlier this week threatened to cut funds to the agency if the measure passed.

The UN Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar believes the United States is duty bound to pay its UN dues, his spokesman said yesterday in an implied rebuke to Washington for threatening to cut off funds if the world body upgrades the status of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

"He considers that the contribution of the United States to the (UN) budget is not in any way linked to anything that happens in the General Assembly but that it is an obligation under the charter," the UN spokesman said.

"It is a debt by the government of the United States. It is not a loan to the United Nations or a charity," he added.

Gerald Monroe, the US representative to the FAO, demanded a roll call vote and told the conference it "should not allow this precedent by presenting highly political issues."

"If that occurs, the FAO will cease to be effective." An Israeli delegate said his country supported giving technical assistance to the Arabs in the occupied territories "but why does it have to be in collaboration with the PLO, a very political organisation?"

A PLO representative said "we are not interested in the occupied territories. I do not wish to talk about politics." The resolution expresses opposition to the Israeli confiscation of Palestinian land and expropriation of Palestinian water resources.

It calls on the FAO to provide "the Palestinian people with the assistance necessary for their economic development in close co-operation with the PLO."

It also asks that the agency include Israeli-occupied territories in future FAO programmes "and in line with the present co-operation and co-ordination between the PLO and other UN agencies."

The resolution also calls for free access by FAO staff members to occupied Palestinian territory.

The State Department said yesterday that US Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter had written to the FAO director-general, Eduardo Saouma, a Lebanese, that there was considerable concern over the issue in the US Congress and administration.

The message said that while the United States had no objection to the FAO's becoming involved in projects in the occupied territories "it would be ill-advised for the organisation to do so in such a way as to involve itself in the geo-political process."

Later this week, Arab nations plan to push a resolution through the UN General Assembly recognising the PLO as a nation. The State Department has threatened to cut off all US support for the United Nations if the

Summit can only move AL HQ

CAIRO, Nov 29, (UPI): Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Kibbi said today an Arab summit is needed to transfer the League's headquarters from the Tunisian capital Tunis back to Cairo, its original seat.

Kibbi said a summit also is needed to amend the 22-nation League's charter mainly on the question of majority versus unanimity.

"There are differing views over this issue and it must be settled at an Arab summit," Kibbi said after an hour-long meeting with Egyptian President Mubarak.

Kibbi said he would discuss with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid "a group of practical arrangements" on amending the League's charter but did not elaborate.

Asked of prospects of transferring the Arab League's headquarters back to Cairo from Tunis, Kibbi said, "this issue requires an (unanimous) Arab resolution."

Kibbi later began talks with Abdel Meguid but sources said Kibbi is cutting short his current three-day visit and soon would be travelling back to Tunis to attend an emergency session of Arab League's foreign ministers requested by the PLO to debate the Palestinian question.

Kibbi has said the session was being postponed because of lack of the needed quorum.

On Arab-European co-operation, Kibbi said it must be developed "to safeguard Arab interests" particularly in view of the fact that the European Economic Community would become "one economic bloc" in 1992.

He also said preparations are underway for a meeting grouping 12 Arab ministers and 12 African ministers to enhance Arab-African co-operation.

In March 1979 Egypt's membership of the Arab League was suspended, and it was decided to make Tunis the temporary headquarters of the League, its secretariat and its permanent committees.

Mubarak attended the last emergency Arab summit meeting held in Casablanca, Morocco, in May.

Moscow rules out ties with Israel

PARIS, Nov 29, (KUNA): Soviet Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Vladimir Petrovski confirmed here that his country will not resume diplomatic relations with Israel before the substance of conditions that caused Moscow to sever its ties with Tel Aviv in 1967.

Speaking to journalists following a seminar on "the new thinking of the Soviet Union" at the Senate last evening, Petrovski insisted that the relations with Tel Aviv will not be raised in the upcoming US-Soviet summit in Malta. The Soviet official said it is up to the two leaders to discuss that since there is no set agenda for the meeting.

He added that the two leaders might examine all the peace initiatives for the Middle East, including the ten point proposal of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

In the seminar, Petrovski evaded a question on the future of Jews in the Soviet Union, saying that his government condemns the practices committed against certain groups during the Stalinist era.

"Abu Iyad should have been meticulous and stuck to facts instead of lumping all countries together in his words," said the official, who noted that the same Palestinian leader had in fact expressed gratification for Saudi assistance.

The uprising against Israeli occupation, or intifada will be two years old next month.

"It was not fair of Abu Iyad to ignore mention of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the sphere of financial assistance for the steadfastness of the Palestinian people when he mentioned the countries he said were not giving the intifada its dues," said a statement by a government official.

"Abu Iyad should have been meticulous and stuck to facts instead of lumping all countries together in his words," said the official, who noted that the same Palestinian leader had in fact expressed gratification for Saudi assistance.

The city, with a combined population now of more than 200,000 people, was cut in half in 1974. The Turkish army invaded and carved



Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki (right) greets Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres (left) for talks in Warsaw (Reuters wirephoto).

PLO ready for talks with Israel

Peres for dialogue

LONDON, Nov 29, (Agencies): The PLO has expressed its readiness to enter into a dialogue with Israel in accordance with the recent Egyptian peace proposals. It was confirmed here yesterday.

This came during discussions over a dinner here last night between a senior aide to the PLO leadership, Bassam Abu Sharif, and British Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave.

British sources only revealed this afternoon that during this banquet the minister "explored the latest PLO thinking on the peace process."

The sources said that Waldegrave also indicated to Abu Sharif, who is currently on a private visit here "that it was important to keep the Americans in play."

He added that "a favourable response by the PLO to the US Secretary of State James Baker's plan was needed," the sources added.

The minister advised the PLO not to "upset" the Americans through the recent draft resolution which was calling on the UN to give the PLO an observer status as an independent state, and not as an organisation.

The sources said that the Americans "would react unfavourably" to such a suggestion.

The leader of Israel's Labour Party told a Cairo newspaper that the only way to stop violence in the Israeli-occupied territories is "political, direct talks" with the Palestinians.

Finance Minister Shimon Peres, and deputy prime minister also said in an interview published today that Israel should not rule the Palestinians against their will.

In a separate newspaper interview, Peres' Labour Party colleague, Science Minister Ezer Weizman, predicted "serious pressure" from the United States for Israel to step up its middle East peace efforts once Washington and the Soviet Union come to terms on the region.

Weizman said changes in Soviet policies under President Mikhail Gorbachev give the Kremlin an essential role in an Arab-Israeli settlement.

Egypt, the United States and the PLO have been fighting a diplomatic tug-of-war over an Arab meeting which could upset Washington's peace efforts, Arab diplomats in Tunis said.

Islamic groups demand change

Crucial Algerian congress

ALGIERS, Nov 29, (Agencies): Faced with a growing challenge from Muslim fundamentalist groups, Algeria's ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) heard unprecedented Islamic demands from its own rank and file at a crucial party congress today.

"This bargaining and leap-ahead carry in them destructive seeds for the FLN whose congress is that of the last chance," said the official daily El Moudjahid, opposing some rank and file demands for Islamic law and for co-educational classrooms to be abolished.

Delegates from the southeastern city of Batna, and from Blida outside Algiers yesterday called for an end to the mixing of the sexes in Algerian classrooms.

Today, a delegate called for the replacement of French with English as the country's first foreign language, a demand of ultra-nationalists opposed to French influence.

The delegate also called for "care for teaching of the Holy Quran inside the schools and specialised institutes as part of the overall educational concept, and linking the role of the mosque and the school in their civilising mission."

The FLN, in power in Algeria since independence in 1962, is meeting in extraordinary session to debate its future in a multi-

party democracy launched by President Chadli Benjedid last year.

Chadli and other reformists seek a ringing endorsement of multi-party democracy and liberal economic reforms, but they oppose fundamentalist demands that they see deviating from principles of tolerance and human rights.

Hardliners say the economic reforms threaten a huge state sector built up during the 1970s.

For the first time in FLN history, half the 5,000 delegates were elected by the rank and file. And within minutes of the opening of the congress they took the floor to demand that a poll be held to change the entire Central Committee.

The congress is the first since opposition parties were legalised earlier this year, the strongest of which appears to be the Islamic Salvation Front which calls for application of Islamic law.

The Islamic Front is likely to pose a major challenge to the FLN during the first multi-party elections due to be held on the local level next year.

"This is the first time delegates at an FLN congress have taken up Islamic fundamentalist demands which do not correspond to the FLN's philosophy," Kamel Belkacem, editor of the liberal weekly Algerie actualite told Reuters.



Kibbi in Cairo
Egyptian President Mubarak (left) meets Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Kibbi in Cairo. (Reuters wirephoto)

Saudis vexed by Abu Iyad

RIYADH, Nov 29, (AP): Saudi Arabia today expressed vexation with ranking Palestinian leader Salah Khalaf for recently castigating all Arab countries without exception for defaulting on assistance to the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.

Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, is Yasser Arafat's right-hand man in the Palestine Liberation Organisation's mainstream organisation Fatah.

He told a Palestinian gathering of authors and journalists in Tunis on Nov 15 that the Arab states had "shut their ears" to appeals for assistance from the Palestinians in the Israeli-held West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The uprising against Israeli occupation, or intifada will be two years old next month.

"It was not fair of Abu Iyad to ignore mention of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the sphere of financial assistance for the steadfastness of the Palestinian people when he mentioned the countries he said were not giving the intifada its dues," said a statement by a government official.

"Abu Iyad should have been meticulous and stuck to facts instead of lumping all countries together in his words," said the official, who noted that the same Palestinian leader had in fact expressed gratification for Saudi assistance.

Turkey warns of pursuit

ANKARA, Nov 29, (Reuters): Turkey served notice today that it might order troops to pursue Kurdish rebels into Iraq.

Rebels of the Kurdish Workers Party killed 28 villagers, including 12 children and six women in a raid on Friday and officials said the killers escaped into Iraq over the frontier less than a km (half a mile) away.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sungar told reporters a security protocol under which Turkey bombed the Marxist PKK's northern Iraqi hideouts in March 1987 expired in October last year and was not renewed.

But he added: "Hot pursuits are not always carried out within protocols." French police raided a remote mountain community early today and arrested several Turkish Kurds wanted in connection with two terrorist attacks in Paris.

Mayors of Turkish, Greek Cypriot break barriers

NICOSIA, Nov 29, (AP): The mayors of the Turkish and Greek halves of this war-divided capital met jointly with the foreign press for the first time ever yesterday.

The two mayors said the barriers that have divided Nicosia for the past 15 years could not fall as quickly as the Berlin Wall because the rift between the Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities is based more on distrust than physical separation.

"There is a mental barrier between the two sides," said Mustafa Akindi, mayor of the Turkish half of the city. "Somebody may wish that the day we pull down the wall we will all embrace each other and the Cyprus problem

will be over ... this is not the situation."

"There are bitter memories on both sides and we have to be careful with our approach," he said.

Lellos Demetriades, the Mayor of the Greek Cypriot sector said he thought eliminating the physical barrier between the two sides would help build trust.

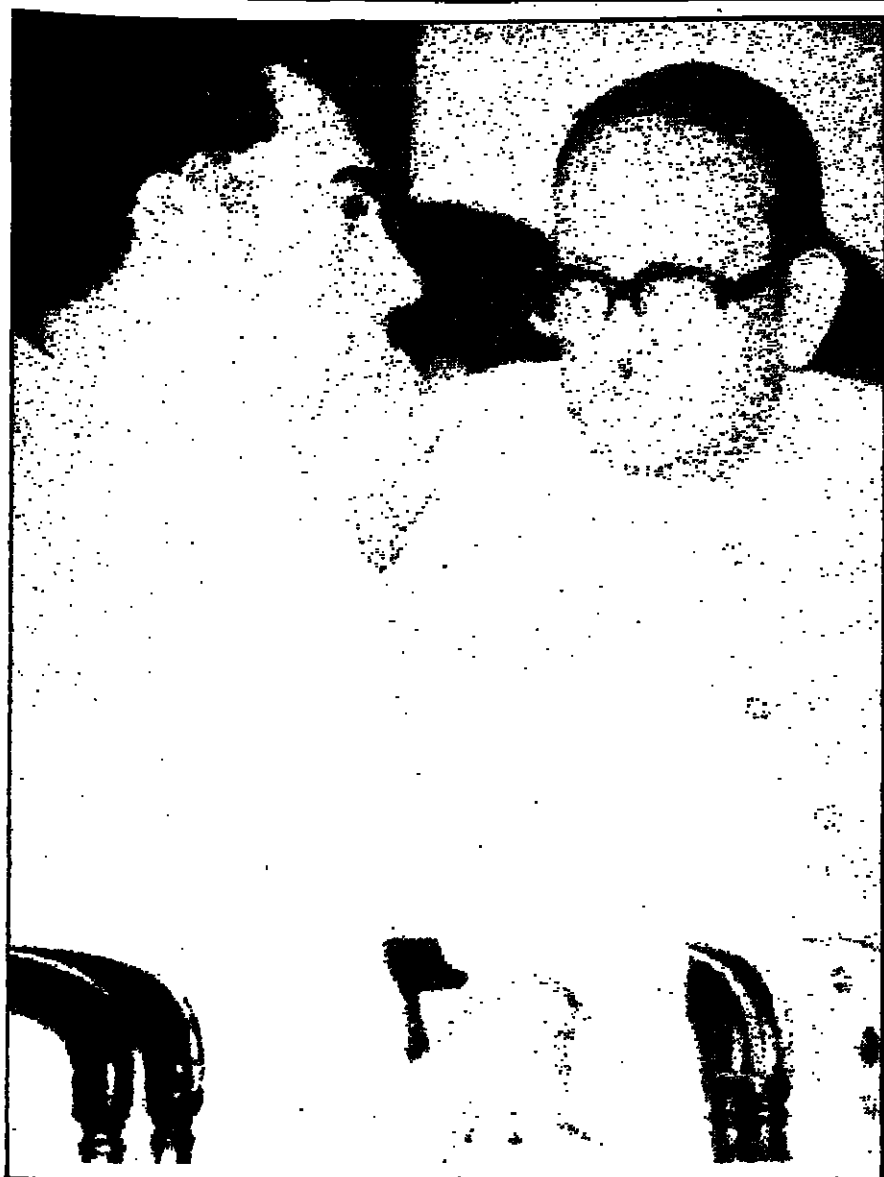
"Though of course I don't expect people like in East Berlin who came rushing to West Berlin," Demetriades said. "But it won't do any harm."

The city, with a combined population now of more than 200,000 people, was cut in half in 1974. The Turkish army invaded and carved

out a separate state on the northern third of the island after a coup by supporters of a union with Greece. Only Turkey recognises the state.

The two mayors have been co-operating for 10 years under United Nations auspices to develop a joint development plan to glue the world's most divided city back together if the barrier dividing it ever comes down. The first stage of the co-operation was a communal sewer system.

Tuesday's news conference with the two mayors was held in the buffer zone controlled by United Nations troops that runs through the middle of the city.



Rajiv Gandhi (left) speaks with V.P. Singh before they split in 1987. (Reuter wirephoto)



Jawaharlal Nehru (left), Indira Gandhi (right), Sanjay (centre) and Rajiv together in an early family photo. (Reuter wirephoto)



Rajiv with his mother during the last ceremony for his brother Sanjay Gandhi in June 1980. (Reuter wirephoto)

humiliating ending to a hopeful beginning

HI, (Reuter): Rajiv's resignation as Indian prime minister today capped a week for his Congress-led at the polls.

... failure to steer the a parliamentary Rajiv handed his resignation to Ramaswamy man, ending five years of job. position parties trying new government. Ven- asked Rajiv to carry stake prime minister w council of ministers in. 5-year-old scion of chru political dynasty er in 1984 on a surge of t he could bring clean nt and modernise the ugrest democracy. d with Rajiv beset by rs of massive corrup- embarrassed by charges t tried to rig his re-elec- n the northern town of

major problem was the at the Bofors Company en paid huge bribes to \$1.3 billion artillery deal :wspaper revelations o let die. 1989 election campaign, osition hammered away corruption theme, with mself the main target. was in turmoil when the airline pilot succeeded his Indira Gandhi as prime r within hours of her nation by Sikh ards on October 31, 1984.

ried four-year political tieship had given him lit- tence for the task of rul- ia's 810 million people. cept his head. murder of his mother d India into crisis as Hin- acked Sikhs, killing about n Delhi alone, but a wave pathy swept Rajiv to an edented margin of victory ons two months later. first year in office was d by conciliation and g maturity, but halfway h his five-year term things to go wrong.

failed to stop killings by militants fighting for their homeland in the northern of Punjab and, constantly unded in public by heavy ity, he had always to wear a -proof vest. lian involvement in Sri a embroiled Rajiv in a ing row over Colombo's nd for an early withdrawal dian peacekeeping troops n 1987 in an attempt to end sland's civil war between ionist Tamils and the rity Sinhalese. s domestic problems ed to go away.

iv suffered a body blow in when former finance and ce minister Vishwanath n Singh, now his probable essor, quit to lead a fragile osition alliance and launch intense campaign saying iv's administration was upt.

hen Rajiv's standing as a e-winner was dented in a es of state assembly reverses, ajiv cultivated the image of a tajiv world leader, but it med to have no major impact ome, where his Western lifes- c in a country dominated by

India's political soap opera

Curtain drops on the Nehru dynasty

NEW DELHI, (Reuter): Rajiv Gandhi's resignation as prime minister on Wednesday brings down the curtain on the latest act in India's longest-running political soap opera — the Nehru dynasty.

But political analysts are swift to point out it may not be the final curtain.

Rajiv resigned after his Congress Party, swept to power with 415 seats in the 545-member Parliament in 1984, suffered humiliating setbacks in national elections which ended on Sunday, and failed to win a clear majority.

He was the third member of his family to serve as prime minister of this diverse nation of 810 million people.

His grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru, independent India's first premier, his mother Indira and Rajiv governed for a total of 37 years since British colonial rule ended in 1947.

Congress sources said Rajiv was expected to be re-elected party leader at a meeting late on Wednesday, which should forestall any immediate attempt at a revolt by old guard party members eager to get rid of him.

His most significant ally may ironically be India's normally fractious opposition which Congress officials believe will quickly lose the appearance of unity it cobbled together to fight the elections.

But Rajiv is still not completely safe — especially from the old guard who felt he froze them out of the inner party councils. The 104-year-old party led the movement which won India independence.

"There is a definite threat to the dynasty and Rajiv will need the charisma of his grandfather and the resilience of his mother to ensure his survival," said Ashis Nandy of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, a research institute in New Delhi.

Younger party members, attracted to Congress because of Rajiv, say they will stand firm behind their leader.

"We will be ready to face any eventuality. The party is united

behind Rajiv Gandhi," said Anand Sharma, who was promoted from the leadership of the Congress youth wing to the party's front rank as its official spokesman.

Indira Gandhi faced a similar struggle against an entrenched older membership in 1969. She won, demonstrating skills at manipulating public opinion which became legendary.

She forced the party to split on ideological lines — supporters of her apparently socialist programme against rivals wanting to preserve India's semi-feudal system.

Her victory gave her an iron grip over the party apparatus and over the nation. Many Indians came to see her as devoted to the concerns of the common man.

"To repeat that (his mother's victory), Mr Gandhi must forget his new ideas of opening up the economy and go in for some good old-fashioned rhetoric to attract the left," said another young Congress leader.

Nandy said the concept of the Nehru dynasty had caught the imagination of India's 100-million strong middle class but not the largely illiterate rural people who make up 75 per cent of India's population.

"Furthermore, only Nehru had real charisma needed to keep a dynasty alive. Indira and Rajiv gained their popularity through the concept of image," he said.

Indira Gandhi elevated herself to the status of a Hindu goddess — Bharat Mata, or mother India — with a carefully cultivated image of a remote figure with a simple lifestyle.

But Rajiv, an airline pilot who went into politics in 1980 on the death of his younger brother, Sanjay, came to symbolise an elitist, Westernised lifestyle, some analysts said.

Even if Rajiv loses the internal power struggle and never returns to office, that does not necessarily mean the end of the dynasty.

His sister-in-law, Maneka, won her seat in the elections as a leading figure in the opposition National Front that looks set to form the next government.

And waiting in the wings is Rajiv's teenage daughter Priyanka who many say the father is grooming for a political career.

the poor simply made him look foreign.

He did boost relations with old foe Pakistan, against which India has fought three wars, after Benazir Bhutto became last December its first elected prime minister

in 11 years. He improved cool ties with the United States while keeping traditional links with the Soviet Union.

He went to China in December 1989, opening a new chapter in

relations frozen since a brief border war in 1962.

Rajiv Gandhi, born in Bombay on August 20, 1944, is the grandson of India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, and son of Indira Gandhi, who

dominated Indian political life for almost two decades.

He was educated at India's exclusive Doon School and attended Trinity College, at Britain's Cambridge University, but did not graduate. He also

Sidelight

Threat seen to US interests: Powerful Indian opposition forces are expected to exploit the deadlocked national elections to renew calls for the ejection of "imperialistic" US corporations from the subcontinent, analysts and political scientists said today.

That could threaten the briskly-growing US-Indian business contracts, which exceed \$6 billion annually.

Experts told the Washington Post that leftists and rural populists may again, as happened in the Janata administration of 1977-79, rail against corporations like PepsiCo and International Business Machines (IBM).

Both huge American corporations were forced to quit India after then-finance minister George Fernandez changed foreign investment laws.

They said it seemed more and more likely that the Janata Party again will lead India's next administration.

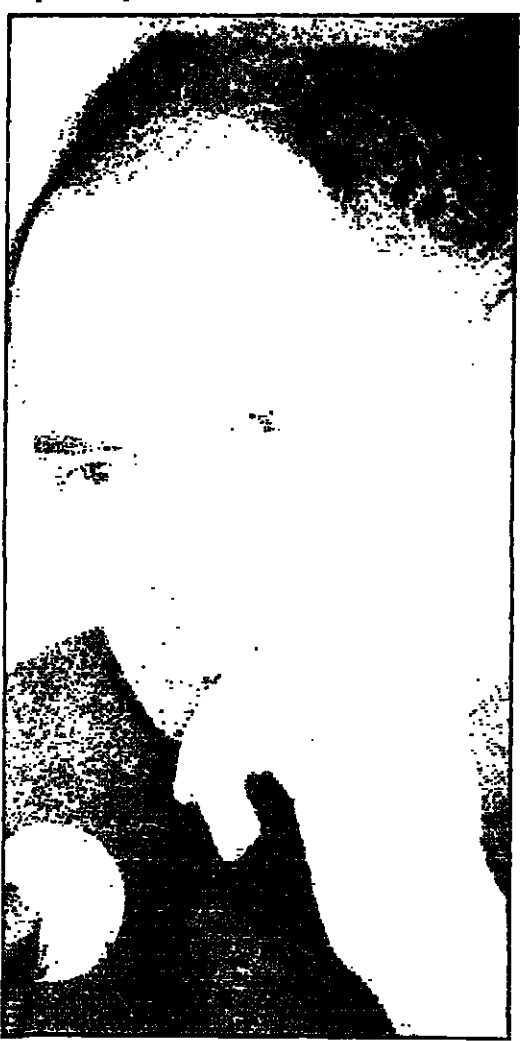
Even if the Congress Party of Rajiv Gandhi scrapes together a coalition, it will need the support of the two communist parties, they pointed out.

Communists, as well as forces led by still-influential leftist Fernandez and others, oppose increased importation of foreign consumer goods for the urban middle classes. They favour instead more focus on building India's agricultural economy.

American and other foreign businessmen have been pouring into India for the past few years, attracted by its consistent economic growth under Rajiv, the growing middle class and Rajiv's slowly liberalising fiscal policies.

Indian optimists argue, meanwhile, that the US-Indian economic links now are too strong to be endangered by opposition elements.

They say the presence of so many multinational corporations — and the fact that the US is India's biggest trading partner — over-shadows any change of political parties.



Rajiv: contemplating



Maneka: happy

People wanted change: The Congress Party was not the only loser in the Indian general election, London's Guardian newspaper reports. It said the main message in the chaotic result is that the voters wanted change, and not only at the national level.

Thus, while the Congress was routed in its northern heartland, it made spectacular gains in the south, where opposition parties hold power at state level. In the four southern states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala, the Congress vote was expected to hold firm. Instead, it mushroomed, and the party scored an almost clean sweep of the 130 parliamentary seats in the region.

It was not enough to compensate for the debacle in the north, and the west and east, where the voters had change of another sort in mind.

Indeed, had Congress not won its bonus of 40-odd seats in the south, it could have been reduced more than in the great rout of 1977, when voters expressed their disgust with Indira Gandhi's flirtation with emergency rule.

This time, the wave of popular opinion went against her son, Rajiv Gandhi. In state after state, once considered impregnable Congress strongholds, the opposition Janata Dal and Bharatiya Janata parties swept aside the government candidates.

Inevitably, heads started to roll. Three Congress chief ministers resigned, or offered to. In Madhya Pradesh, Motilal Vora said he would step down from the party leadership in the state assembly. So too did Orissa chief minister, J.B. Patnaik, and Gujarat chief minister, Amarsinh Chaudhary.

Other Congress state bosses are also in an indefensible position. In Rajasthan and Bihar the party is heading for humiliation. In the biggest state of all, Uttar Pradesh, it was actually lost control of the Vidhan Sabha, or assembly, in a badly timed simultaneous election.

Several central government ministers were also sent packing by the voters, some of them close confidants of the hapless Gandhi. The greatest casualties were the controversial and conspiracy-prone home minister Buta Singh, and the foreign affairs minister, Natwar Singh.

Other losers included the surface transport minister, Rajesh Pilot, the minister for food processing, Jagdish Tytler, and the Speaker of the Lok Sabha Balram Jharkhar.

Jharkhar was electorally thrashed in his Rajasthan constituency of Sikar by one of the principal opposition leaders, Chowdhary Devi Lal, the chief minister of next-door Haryana state.

There was a scattering of Congress victories outside the south. One of the least expected was in Bihar, which generally rejected the ruling party. Indeed, Bihar's only Congress MP out of 54 maybe M.J. Akbar, until recently editor of the English daily paper, the Telegraph, whose editorials strongly resemble Congress pamphlets, only better written.

studied engineering at Imperial College, London.

In England he met Italian student Sonia Maino, daughter of a Turin industrialist. They were married in New Delhi in 1968 and have two teenage chil-

dren.

Rajiv's first career was as a pilot with Indian Airlines and he lived the good life of the Indian elite. That all changed with the death of younger brother Sanjay, on whom all Indira's hopes for

'He let the family down'

Maneka is celebrating

NEW DELHI, (Reuter): There was at least one happy Gandhi on Wednesday.

Maneka Gandhi was celebrating not only her brother-in-law's downfall as India's prime minister but also her own election as a member of Parliament for the victorious Janata Dal.

"He deserved it because he let the family down," she said of the huge election losses that forced Rajiv and his government to resign.

"I believe Rajiv's time has passed," she said in an interview, although immediately qualified that by saying she would not write off his political future entirely.

"In our family we keep bouncing back," Maneka, entering Parliament as Janata's only woman member after winning her constituency by a 130,000-vote margin, speaks from experience.

She was only 22 when her husband Sanjay, Rajiv's brother, was killed in a light aircraft accident in June 1980. She describes the years since then as an "awesome struggle."

Before his death Sanjay was seen as a natural successor to his mother Indira as prime minister but instead, when Indira was assassinated in 1984 the mantle fell on Rajiv, a former airline pilot with almost no political experience.

Maneka made an embarrassing attempt to enter Parliament at elections held that year when Rajiv's Congress Party won a landslide victory on a wave of sympathy for his mother's murder.

In a campaign based on memories of her husband, Maneka stood against Rajiv himself and was soundly beaten.

She said she had learned a hard lesson from the experience but this time around it had been different.

"The people voted for me as myself. Not for Sanjay's widow. Not for the Janata Dal, but for me — Maneka," she said.

An attractive woman with a freckled nose and sharp sense of humour — especially when aimed at her political rivals — she was scathing about Rajiv.

"In our family we may make mistakes but the attainment of power means a deep commitment to the country," she said.

"(Rajiv) was committed to the pursuit of money. I've known him a long time. He's always been the same."

The National Front opposition alliance in the election — spearheaded by the Janata Dal — hammered home allegations of corruption within Rajiv's government.

Maneka says she kept her campaign in the north Indian constituency of Pilibhit clean of smears — and of interference from professional political organisers, a breed she professes to despise but who dominate Indian politics.

"We had lawyers, teachers, farmers, village heads working for us — but no politicians. Politicians are aliens in the villages," she said.

Many political analysts believe a National Front government will offer the forceful Maneka, an ardent supporter of animal rights, a cabinet post.

She agrees there is a chance, the environment portfolio for preference, but adds, "I don't just want to be their mandatory woman in the youth and women's affairs ministry — I don't think ministerial rank is worth that."

the succession had rested.

When Sanjay died in a 1980 flying accident, Rajiv gave up his airline job, won his brother's former parliamentary seat and within three years became a party leader.

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India Election Special

Rajiv drops conspiracy charges against Mann

One of last acts as premier

CHANDIGARH, Nov. 29. (Agencies) Rajiv Gandhi, in one of his last acts as prime minister, yesterday ordered charges of conspiracy in his mother's assassination dropped against a newly elected Sikh parliamentarian associated with the Punjab separatist movement. Officials said Rajiv transmitted the instructions to the Home Ministry, pointing out that Simranjit Singh Mann had sworn allegiance to the constitution in order to run for the Tarn Taran seat in the lower house of Parliament, or Lok Sabha.

Rajiv also said the radical offshoot of the Sikh Akali Dal party of

which Mann is president had taken a stand against separatism and violence during the campaign for 13 seats contested in the northern state on Sunday, the officials said.

The caretaker prime minister directed that the charges against Mann of conspiring to assassinate Indira Gandhi be withdrawn and that he be allowed to take his seat in the national legislature.

Punjab government sources said Rajiv had also asked the administration in the eastern state of Bihar to drop charges of sedition against Mann.

Mann's wife, Geeta, told United Press International she was "extremely happy."

"It was a totally false case against my husband," she said. "I am relieved the government has realized it has been dealing in a criminal manner with my husband."

Mann, a former police officer, was arrested in Bihar on Nov. 29, 1984, while trying to flee across the border to Nepal from police who sought to arrest him for alleged links to Sikh separatist groups. He was charged with sedition and earlier this year with conspiracy in India's Oct. 31, 1984, murder.

He was elected to Parliament from Punjab this week along with five other Sikhs associated with the insurrection by extremists demanding the creation in Punjab of the independent theocratic nation of "Khalistan."

Escape

More than 5,000 people have died since 1983 in the campaign by the radicals, who contended that India's 16 million Sikhs require their own nation to escape alleged discrimination by Rajiv's Hindu-dominated central government.

The election of six Sikhs has raised hopes that the extremists are prepared to see whether their grievances can be addressed through legitimate politics.

Among the other newly elected parliamentarians of the Akali Dal (Mann) group are the widow and father of Beant Singh, one of the two Sikh security guards who gunned down Indira in her residential compound.

Beant Singh was shot dead by other bodyguards minutes after the murder. The other assassin, Satwant Singh, was hanged earlier this year along with a conspirator, Kehar Singh.

Rajiv's recommendation was one of his final official acts before resigning as prime minister following the humiliating loss of his parliamentary majority in general elections Nov. 22, 24 and 26. The sources said Rajiv also had asked Punjab governor S.S. Ray to withdraw charges against Atinderpal Singh, Mann's co-defendant in the assassination case and one of the Sikhs selected for the Lok Sabha.

Atinderpal Singh, the leader of the shadowy Khalistan Commando Force, was also allegedly responsible for a series of deadly bomb blasts across northern India in 1987.

Rajiv's Congress (I) Party has suffered in Punjab because of his inability to implement a July 1985 accord with Sikh leaders that was aimed at ending the Sikh extremist campaign.

His failure to prosecute Hindus involved in the massacre of thousands of Sikhs ignited by his mother's assassination also has contributed to hatred for the prime minister and his party among members of the religious minority.

Another factor that has turned Sikhs against the government is the alleged excesses committed by the tens of thousands of security personnel deployed across the state, which has been ruled directly from New Delhi since Rajiv dismissed a moderate Sikh government in May 1987.

Sikh extremists have won the majority of their state's seats in Parliament, sparking cautious hopes their bloody battle for a separate homeland in Punjab will find a peaceful solution.

In all, Sikh nationalists won nine of Punjab's 13 seats in the Lok Sabha, the lower house of Parliament.

Six of the winners ran as members of Akali Dal. The three others were independents.

Sikhs now make up two per cent of India's 880 million people but have a slight majority over Hindus in Punjab.

Yesterday, fireworks were lit in the Punjab town of Tarn Taran to celebrate the victory of Mann.

The Union Jack, which was fluttering on the Indian Parliament, was finally removed by the young Ranga on the historic day when India gained independence on Aug. 15, 1947.

Ranga also contributed a great deal to the peasant movement.

In 1991, he expects to celebrate the golden jubilee of his immaculate political career — setting a record of sorts.

(Continued from Page 1)

have asked for BJP support.

"The seat adjustments among the various opposition parties have greatly helped us in defeating the Congress. It is now the sacred duty of all of us to see that this mandate is not frustrated and the formation of non-Congress government is not delayed give effect to the hopes and aspirations of the people," Singh and Rao said in the letter.

They further said "The National Front has decided to shoulder this responsibility of approaching the President and stake its claim to form the new government."

Advani, speaking from a position of strength after his party got 89 seats, said he would like the Front government to "confine its programmes to issues on which their separate manifestos agreed."

The BJP's impatience with Singh and Janata Dal clearly showed up in Advani's remarks. "Ever since its launching, the Janata Dal leadership has been consciously trying to convey to the people that it regards the BJP as a communal party and that it would rather sit in the opposition than share power with it," Advani said.

"The Janata Dal's public postures have thwarted the building of any abiding relationship of trust and friendship between our parties."

"If it is acknowledged that the Janata Dal does not regard the BJP as a communal party, that would go a long way in removing misgivings in our rank and file," Advani's letter said.

Advani hoped the Front, of which the Janata Dal is the main constituent, would take steps to obviate these misgivings. He said the BJP was keen to see the end of Congress rule and had, therefore, not made its support conditional.

"The BJP wishes to convey to you its readiness to give general but critical support to the National Front government," Advani said.

With the go-ahead from the BJP, the road has more or less been paved for the installation of a Front government. But the leadership question has not yet been settled. A meeting of the Front parliamentary committee, scheduled for Wednesday, has been put off till Friday. With the other contender for the post, Chandrasekhar, backing off, the ball now seems to be in V.P. Singh's court.

Only one significant barrier stood in the way of a minority National Front alliance government — electing a leader to become prime minister.

The Front postponed until Friday a vote on the issue with veteran socialist Chandra Shek-



Celebration time

Opposition supporters celebrate on the top of a bus as they drive through the streets of New Delhi after the resignation of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Rajiv and ruling party failed to secure a majority in the recent general elections. (Reuters wirephoto)

har refusing to withdraw a challenge to former Rajiv ally Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

"A new government will be formed," Rajiv said in a brief national television address. "We extend to them our good wishes and offer them our constructive co-operation."

Addressing Congress legislators, who had just re-elected him leader, and in remarks to reporters afterwards, Rajiv made clear that he would attack the new government over the backing it is getting from the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

"The verdict of the people is before us and we respect that verdict with all humility," he said.

"But when the Congress is in power it is strong. When it is in opposition, it is doubly strong. We will co-operate to build and develop the nation within the principles Congress believes in."

He made clear the principles

were vastly different from those of the BJP which removed a major hurdle to a National Front minority government by pledging its support from outside the government.

"The biggest challenge before this country today is that of fighting communalism," Rajiv said in an attack on the anti-Muslim BJP, which scored dramatic election wins.

"It requires some introspection to see why Congress was not able to stand up to the communal onslaught in the north, which was unprecedented," he said in a clear reference to the BJP's success in the region.

As I demit office, I wish to thank the people of India for the affection they have showered on me in such abundance. During these last five years, I have been among our people from the farthest and most remote reaches of our land to places more readily accessible. Everywhere I have seen a great India being built by a

great people. The accomplishments of our nation building are the achievements of our people. Elections are won and lost but the work of a nation never ends. We shall not falter in our resolve to do our duty. I and millions of our Congress workers rededicate ourselves to the cause of India's greatness.

Mahatma Gandhi and Indira laid down their lives for the unity and integrity of a secular India. India cannot survive without secularism. We will do everything to uphold secular values with all my strength. I shall continue to serve the people of India.

Agencies adds: The election was preceded by ferocious Hindu-Muslim riots fomented by a dispute over a sacred site claimed by both faiths. India's 100 million Muslims, upset by Rajiv's handling of the issue, deserted Congress in droves.

Rajiv, calm and studied and clad in sparkling white, applauded the 498-million Indian electorate, the world's biggest, despite the violence that plagued the poll.

The elections have shown that democracy is very strong and deeply rooted in India," he said.

Rajiv, whose mother Indira was assassinated by Sikh bodyguards in 1984, even praised nine hardline Sikh separatists who ran and won in the northern state of Punjab.

He welcomed the election of "those who swore by the gun and the bullet just a few years ago."

Rajiv's resignation, which was a formality, cleared the way for the National Front opposition alliance to try to form the next government of the world's most populous democracy.

But new disputes emerged among members of the centrist alliance.

The National Front and its allies picked up enough pledges of support from smaller parties for an informal majority.

It wants to form a minority government based on support from its allies when votes are taken in parliament.

But the divergent smaller parties, representing the political spectrum from the far-right to the far-left, have little in common beside their dislike of Rajiv and his party.

Rajiv and the Congress Party are gambling that the National Front will be unable to form a government because of internal squabbling, paving the way for Congress to return to power.

Congress legislators met tonight and unanimously re-elected Rajiv as their parliamentary leader, putting Rajiv in line to become prime minister if the opposition fails and the President asks him to form a government.

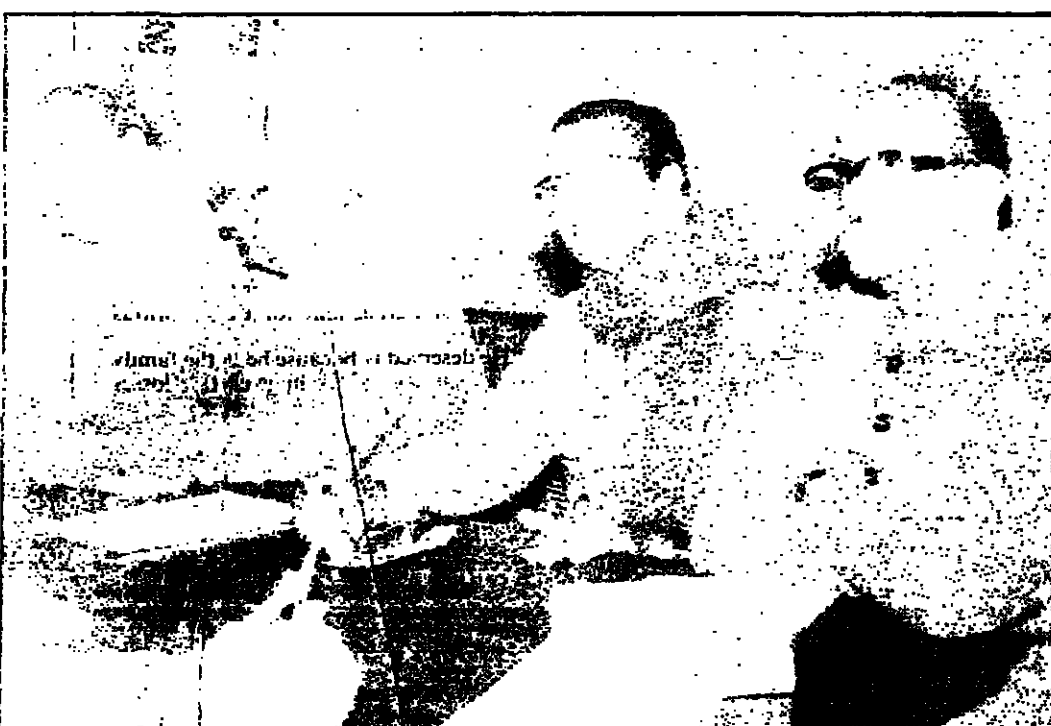
Detailed Kerala Results

ADOOR: K. Suresh (Cong-I) defeated N. Rajan (CPI) by 21,542 votes.
CHIRAYINKEEZHU: T. Basheer (Cong-I) defeated Sushela Gopalan (CPM) by 5,131 votes.
ALLEPPEY: Vakkom Purushottaman (Cong-I) defeated K. V. Devadas (CPM) by 25,123 votes.
PILAYELIKKARA: Prof. P. J. Kurien (Cong-I) defeated Thampun Thomas (JD) by 57,182 votes.
MUKUNDAPURAM: Savitri Lakshmanan (Cong-I) defeated C. O. Poulose (CPM) by 18,754 votes.
KOTTAYAM: Ramesh Chennithala (Cong-I) defeated Suresh Kerala (CPM) by 53,533 votes.
VADAKKARA: K. P. Umakrishnan (Cong-S) defeated A. Sujanalal (Cong-I) by 8,289 votes.
QUILON: S. Krishnakumar (Cong-I) defeated Babu Divakaran (RSP) by 27,462 votes.
ERNAKULAM: K. V. Thomas (Cong-I) defeated P. S. Potti (Ind) by 36,750 votes.
IDUKKI: Palai K. M. Mathew (Cong-I) defeated M. C. Josephine (CPM) by 91,479 votes.
TRICHUR: P. A. Antony (Cong-I)

defeated Meenakshi Thampun (CPI) by 6,235 votes.
CALICUT: K. Maraleedharan (Cong-I) defeated E. K. Imbichi Bava (CPM) by 28,957 votes.
MUVATTAPUZHA: P. C. Thomas (KCM) defeated C. Paulose (IDF-Ind) by 68,811 votes.
TRIVANDRUM: A. Charles (Cong-I) defeated Prof. O. N. V. Kurup (CPI-Ind) by 50,913 votes.
PONNANI: G. M. Banatwala (IUMI-C) defeated M. Rahamatullah (CPI) by 107,519 votes.
CANNANORE: Mullappally Ramachandran (Cong-I) defeated P. Sasi (CPM) by 42,404 votes.
OTTAPPALAM: K. R. Narayanan (Cong-I) defeated Lenin Rajendran (CPM) by 26,187 votes.
MANCHERRI: Ibrahim Sulaiman Sait (IUMI) defeated K. V. Saha-huddin (CPM-Ind) by 70,222 votes.
KASARGOD: M. Ramanna Rai (CPM) defeated I. Rama Rai (Cong-I) by 1,546 votes.
PALGHAT: A. Vijaya Raghavan (CPM) defeated V. S. Vijaya Raghavan (Cong-I) by 1,286 votes.

Party positions after 518 seats declared.

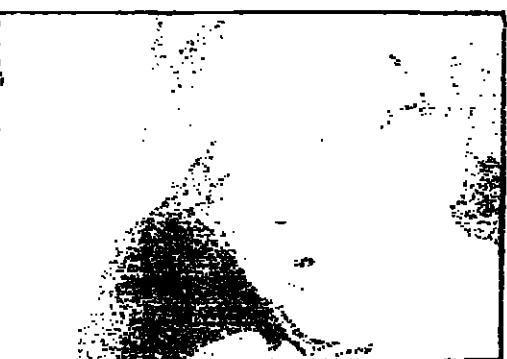
Congress (I)	191
Janata Dal	136
BJP	89
CPM	32
ALADMK	11
CPI	11
Akali Dal (M)	4
RSP	3
BSP	3
Forward Block	3
JMM	3
National Conference	3
IUMI(S)	2
Telugu Desam	2
Congress (S)	1
Indian People's Front	1
IUMI (L)	1
Kerala Congress (M)	1
Sikh Sangram Parishad	1
USP	1
Ind. & Others	16
Total declared	518
Seats Contested	525



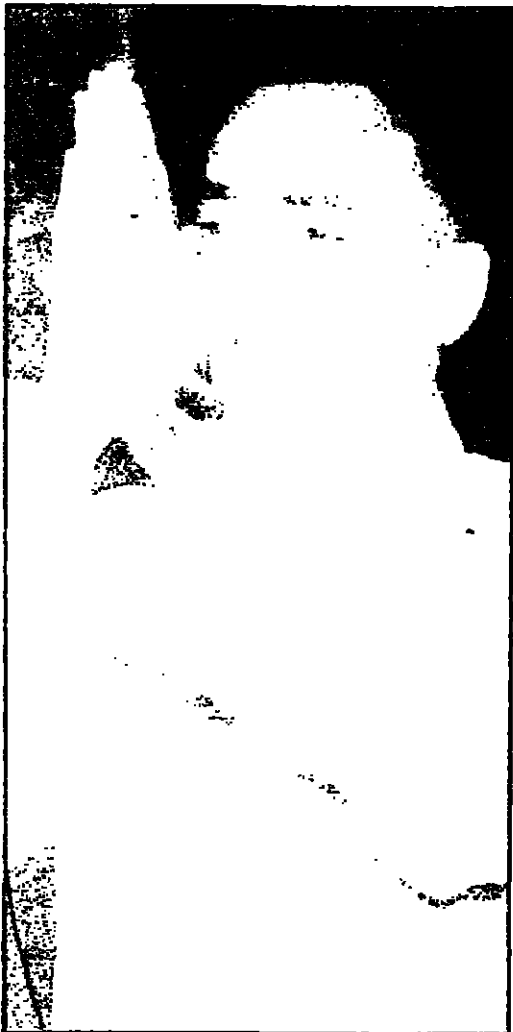
Indian opposition leaders (left to right) Atul Nehru, Devi Lal, N.T. Rama Rao and V.P. Singh hold a meeting at the National Front headquarters. (Reuters wirephoto)



Chief Minister R. Venkataratnam will now be in a position to decide who will form the next government. (Reuters wirephoto)



M. Joshi, general secretary of the BJP, addresses a press conference in New Delhi. (Reuters wirephoto)



Rajiv greets parliament members from Congress Party. (Reuters wirephoto)

Professor Ranga, elected for ninth time, sets record

NEW DELHI, Nov. 29. (Kuna) A 90-year-old politician Professor Ranga was elected to the Indian Parliament for a record ninth time. He is all set to enter the Guinness Book of World Records.

Ranga was elected with an impressive margin of over 100,000 votes from the Guntur parliamentary constituency in Andhra Pradesh.

Ranga started his political career in 1930

when he became a member of the Constitutional Assembly under the British rule. An Oxford student, he later became a professor of economics.

During the 1930 freedom movement, Ranga courageously moved a resolution in the Central Assembly asking the government to seek the co-operation of Mahatma Gandhi at the round table conference.

The Union Jack, which was fluttering on the Indian Parliament, was finally removed by the young Ranga on the historic day when India gained independence on Aug. 15, 1947.

Ranga also contributed a great deal to the peasant movement.

In 1991, he expects to celebrate the golden jubilee of his immaculate political career — setting a record of sorts.

دنیا کی سب سے دلکش مسکراہٹ
اب کراچی تک آپ کی ہمسفر



لوفت ہانزا کی ہمسفر
دنیا کی سب سے دلکش مسکراہٹ
اب کراچی تک آپ کی ہمسفر
لوفت ہانزا کی ہمسفر
دنیا کی سب سے دلکش مسکراہٹ
اب کراچی تک آپ کی ہمسفر

Lufthansa

لوفت ہانزا کی ہمسفر
دنیا کی سب سے دلکش مسکراہٹ
اب کراچی تک آپ کی ہمسفر

55.10.1989

EVENTS

Treat for music lovers

ARAXIA DAVTIAN, a world renowned opera star, and Diana Mkrtchian, an internationally famous pianist, will be performing on December 4 at the Kuwait International Hotel.

Davtian, soprano, has rose to prominence in the West within the last two seasons, making her European and American debuts in 1987 with the violinist and conductor, Vladimir Spivakov, and the Moscow virtuosi last October.

Mkrtchian, pianist, took her degree from the Yerevan Conservatory in 1971, where she currently serves as a professor of piano. She has worked extensively as an accompanist for many distinguished singers and has also participated in

where she debuted as Violetta in La Traviata.

Well known for her Mozart, Davtian sang in the Rotterdam Philharmonic's Mozart Festival during last summer and in the summer of 1990 she will appear at the Mozarteum in Salzburg. It was in Mozart too that she created a sensation in the American press when she toured with the violinist and conductor, Vladimir Spivakov, and the Moscow virtuosi last October.

Mkrtchian, pianist, took her degree from the Yerevan Conservatory in 1971, where she currently serves as a professor of piano. She has worked extensively as an accompanist for many distinguished singers and has also participated in

numerous international competitions.

In 1984, she was awarded first prize at the Voiti competition for her collaboration with Davtian.

In their performance on December 4, at 8:00 pm in the Kuwait International Hotel's Grand Ballroom, pieces of different operas will be performed in Italian, English, Russian and Armenian. A reception dinner is included.

The performance is being sponsored by Boodai Aviation and the Kuwait International Hotel. For tickets contact: 2426319 (Boodai Aviation) or 2530000 ext 8039 (Kuwait International).

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Sharq Al Jadeed Pharmacy
Al Safat Souq Loula Pharmacy
Ahmad Al Jaber Street
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Rehab Pharmacy
Hawalli, Tunis Street
Salimiyah and Rumaithiya
Al Bader Pharmacy
Al Bajat Street
Fahsheel and Ahmad
Al Sheeba Pharmacy
Fahsheel, Inheritors of
Sheikh Ahmad Al Jaber Building
Old Kheitan
Ghazwa Pharmacy
Shamali Street, Opp. to
Police Station
Jahra
Al Zahra Pharmacy
Jahra, New Souq



Adnan Butt performing with style.



Butt singing one of his high pitched songs.

Musical night with Adnan Butt

A MUSICAL function was arranged under the patronage of Al Mulla Rentals at the residence of Sohail Butt in Fahsheel last Thursday. The function was arranged in honour of Adnan Butt a popular radio, television and stage singer from Pakistan who is equally popular in his native Lahore as well as Karachi.

The function was attended by a wide cross-section of music lovers. Due to his popularity and public response, a larger function is now being arranged on Friday, December 15 at Ramada Al Salam Hotel at 6:00 pm. Those interested to attend the function may contact 474955, 3919720, 3610088 or 5712731 for details.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 The opening and Holy Quran
9.15 Sabah Al Kher, news and variety
9.30 Cartoons
10.05 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.25 Regal Fi Al Masyada: Arabi Serial (part 3), starring Fuad Khaled, Afaf Rashad, Sahar Rami
11.30 The Open University: Cultural Programme
12.00 Sabah Al Kher, news and variety
12.15 Hewar wa Nagham: Local programme, prepared by Qasem Abdul Qader
1.00 News summary
1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
1.30 Sports in a Week: Local sports programme, prepared and presented by Sports Programmes Control.
3.15 Variety
3.30 Liqa Al Khamees: Variety programme
5.00 Cartoon serial (part 6)
5.30 Cartoons
5.45 Night chemists, airlines and officials advertisements
6.00 Al Islam Hadhara: Religious serial (part 22)
7.00 Egypt Informational Message to the State of Kuwait
7.15 Al Forsuoya: Local

programme
Kul Al Foonon: Programme, prepared by Hassan Awar.

8.30 Max - Al Islam: Religious Programme, prepared and presented by Dr Khaled Al Mather

9.00 News in Arabic

9.15 Saber: Arabic serial (part 6)

10.30 Makhalet Imra: Arabic Feature Film, starring Ezzat Al Alayli Merfat Ameen, Mohammed Khiri and Sabri Abdul Aziz

12.15 Thursday variety late night show.

1.25 News Summary

1.30 The World Today via Satellite

2.00 Holy Quran and closedown

FRIDAY

9.00 Opening and Holy Quran

9.15 Cartoons

9.30 Sharlot Adventures: Cartoon Serial

10.00 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)

10.15 Children's Magazine: Local Children Programme

10.30 Al Ahadeeth Al Mawdo'a: Religious Programme, presented by Sheikh Salah Abu Ismael

11.00 Live from the Grand Mosque for the Friday prayers and speeches

12.30 Alwan: Variety programme, prepared

by Mohammed Al Fares, presented by Fatma Abdul Wahab

1.00 News Summary

1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)

1.30 Friday Break: Variety programme, prepared and presented by Varieties control

3.00 Daqat Al Saa: Arabic Serial (part 9)

4.00 Hadeeth Deeni: Religious Programme, presented by Sheikh Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi

4.45 We are Your Friends: Local Programme

5.00 Cartoon Serial (part 7)

5.45 Night Chemists, Airlines and Official Advertisements

6.00 KUTV Programmes in

A Week

6.30 Kuwait in a Week: News Programme

7.15 The Family Programme: Local Programme

7.45 Silk Road: Cultural Programme (part 8)

8.40 Hadeeth Al Osbo: Religious Programme, presented by Sheikh Ali Al Jassar

9.00 News in Arabic

9.45 Wrestling

10.30 Variety Cultural late night show with Yaqoob Rashid

11.30 News Summary

11.35 The World Today via Satellite

12.00 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
6.10 Fantastic Max: A cartoon series for children.
6.30 Mr Wizard's World: A variety of magical illusions and training of children or how to use or deal with information.
7.00 Wild America "Season of the Seal": A look at the western rocky coasts of the United States where environment looks unsuitable for animal or sea life.
7.30 My Secret Identity "Memories": Dr Jay informs his friend Andrew that his fiancée who foresees him 14 year ago will meet him very soon. Andrew helps to cool Dr Jay down.
8.00 News in English
8.30 Murder, She Wrote "The Last Flight of the Damsel": The authoress' husband is accused of murdering a lieutenant in the air force. Jessica has to gather necessary evidence to help find the real criminal.
9.30 Just for the Record: An exciting and entertaining programme on record breaking achievements from the tremendous to the

trivial
10.00 Annie McGuire "Soft Hearted Annie": Annie's new administrative position is tested when she is faced with firing Rita, a long term though incompetent employee.
10.30 Feature Film "Special People": Starring: Brooke Adams, Yami Donowell. "Dayan" attempts to form a stage company of mentally retarded people... will her idea work?
12.00 News in Brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

FRIDAY

6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran

6.10 Macron 1: A cartoon series for children

6.30 Walt Disney Film: "The Boatniks Road": Three robbers attempt to smuggle their loot of jewels aboard a boat. On their way their car clashes with the Sea Guard officer's car!

8.00 News in English

8.30 Breaking Away: Recreational and entertainment activities.

8.45 The Yellow River "Taming the Dragon": A look at destruction caused by the river floods and measures taken to stop its menace to the people.

9.30 The Weekend Programme: A weekly local programme on different topics and a variety of activity and events.

10.00 Roseanne "Dan's Birthday": The kids celebrate their father's birthday at home. Roseanne and Dan go out to celebrate that occasion.

10.30 Supercarrier "Pilot": Adventure calls and crewmen scramble into action, manning the gigantic super-carrier USS George-town as it departs San Miguel Naval Base for a run of sea trials.

11.30 News in brief

11.45 Magazine D'actualite

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

PRAYERS

Fajr 5.00 am

Zohr 11.37

Asr 2.30 pm

Maghreb 4.49

Isha 6.11

FRIDAY

Fajr 5.01 am

Friday prayer 11.37

Asr 2.30 pm

Maghreb 4.49

Isha 6.11

Scholars awarded

THE Kuwait Indian Cultural Congress (KICC) will organise a public function to mark the finale of the Nehru Centenary celebrations in the Indian embassy auditorium today, Thursday the Nov 30, at 6.30 pm, according to a press release by Shri John Manduram, Gen. Secretary of the KICC.

As announced earlier, three students from the Indian schools who scored the topmost marks in aggregate on the last CBSE examination for the 10th standard will be awarded gold medals. The students are Master Leo Simpson, New Indian School, Jasmin Mary Jacob, the Indian School and Reema Mary Mathew, Carmel School.

The meeting will be presided over by president Shri Vargese Mathy. Felicitation speeches will be made by Shri Abdul Khalik, first secretary of Information, the Indian embassy, Shri George Tharakan, customer relation manager, Air India, Shri J.A.S. Newton, director of the Indian School, Shri S.S.N. Ganguly, principal, the New Indian School.

Following this, a variety entertainment programme will be conducted. Nrihanjali under the guidance of Girija Radhakrishnan will present the Bharatha Natyayam, Oppena, Mohiniyattam, Kerala Suthy etc., and Ambika Surya Narayanan will present the patriotic song by renowned poet Vallathol. Admittance is free.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Arabic film
Salmiyah
Space Mutiny
Al Hamra
Low Blow
Drive-in
Arabic film

Al Firdous
Rama-o-Rama
Fahsheel Open
Kahani Phoolan Ki
Fahsheel
Ayan Aadlat
Al Jahra
Arabic film
Granada
Blow out
Salmiyah
Dowryham
Jib
Maa Beti
Ahmadi Drive-in
Arabic film

FRIDAY
Al Andalus
Arabic film
Salmiyah
Space Mutiny
Al Hamra
Low Blow
Drive-in
Arabic film

Al Firdous
Rama-o-Rama
Fahsheel Open
Kahani Phoolan Ki
Fahsheel
Ayan Aadlat
Al Jahra
Arabic film
Granada
Blow out
Salmiyah
Dowryham
Jib
Maa Beti
Ahmadi Drive-in
Arabic film

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Seminar

THERE will be a seminar at the DAA on "Arabic & European Art in the Light of Zodiocal Symbolism" December 10, 1989 - January 10, 1990. Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am. Anyone wishing to register for this seminar may do so at the DAA during museum hours.

SOCIAL

Bhartiya Kala Sangam

A family get-together for members of Bhartiya Kala Sangam will be held at the Indian Embassy premises on Thursday, Dec 7, 1989 at 7.30 pm. There will be an entertainment programme including 'fancy dress competition' for children, lucky draw, and sumptuous buffet for members. Lots of prizes and surprises await for one and all. For details please contact tele. 5628171, 2551305.

X'mas tree

DEC 15: Flying Arrows Sporting Centre once again invites their members and guests to their annual X'mas tree function, to be held at the Carlton Tower Hotel from 11.30am onwards. Assumptious buffet, gifts galore, exciting games and live music by the "Neighbourz" awaits one and all. Added attraction, Leo the Magician is to perform at 12.00pm sharp.

Sharad Mela

AFTER successfully organising Deep-Dewali Satkaar is now going to organise Sharad Mela at Indian Arts Circle, Funaites on 1st December 1989, at 10.00 am. There will be food stalls of delicious cuisines along with fun and games stalls for children. The big attraction will be two Grand Rattle Draws with a Game of Bingo. For entry passes and further information contact, Brj Vallabh - 2510146, or V.K. Agarwal - 5728621.

X'mas tree '89

CHRISTMAS is for children, and what better way than to celebrate it with the New Goans Overseas Association at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel (the new Al-Mirage Ballroom) on the 15th of December 1989. Highlights include 'carol singing competition' (4 local schools participating) games for children, novelty dance and music by the Stepping Stones. Santa Claus will be distributing gifts to all the kids. For reservations contact Anthony on tel: 5621968 (after 6.00 pm) or Julio.

Ahmadi Music Society

The Ahmadi Music Society proudly presents its 21st Carol Concert at 8 pm on Monday and Tuesday Dec 11 and 12, 1989. A special children's carol concert will be held at 5.30 pm on Saturday Dec 9, 1989. Venue Kuwait Little Theatre, Ahmadi. For ticket reservations ring 3983964.

German-speaking Cultural Association

TRADITIONAL bazaar for all - with beautiful handicrafts will be held on Thursday, Nov 30, 5 pm, at Kuwait International Hotel's Old Fialaka Room.

The next regular coffee morning for German-speaking ladies will take place on Sunday, Dec 3, 10 am, at the same venue.

The association's next event will be the St Nicholas Party on Thursday, Dec 7, 3 pm, at International Hotel's Grand Ballroom. Tickets for this event will be available at the bazaar, German embassy and at the coffee morning.

Flicheck awarding Ceremonies

TOURNAMENT committee chairperson, Chito Barrios, announced that due to unavoidable circumstances, the awarding ceremonies for the recently concluded Flicheck First Active Chess Tournament, originally scheduled for Friday, 1st December 1989 has been postponed to Friday, 15th December at 9.30am at the new Kabayan Restaurant. Other details will be published later.

However, the annual elections will be held as scheduled on Friday, 1st December at 9.00 am. All members are requested to come in uniform.

For details: Sammy B. Aurellano (Tel: 2402405).

PPC's democracy week

The Pakistan People's Club will celebrate the first anniversary of the restoration of democracy by Benazir Bhutto's Prime Minister elected government on Dec 2, 1988. Announcing this Riaz Ahmed Mahesar said that meetings and outdoor musical programme will be arranged for men and women wings of the club.

All members are requested to contact Mr Rafiq Ahmed Mirza. For children sports events are arranged by PPC sports committee.

KOSA meeting

KOSA Annual General Meeting - 17 December 7.30 pm Shaab Marina. All members should attend to elect the 1990 committee. For further details please call the KOSA Secretary Declan Mannion on 2452880.

Xmas celebrations

DEC 15: United Goan's Centre will have their annual X'mas celebrations at the Al Salam Hotel on Friday December 15th '89 from 10 am onwards (Al Deira). Special package of fun, games awaits the young as well as the old. A variety of entertainment for the children. Call on us for early booking and avoid disappointment. Contact Tony: 2612024/ Moses: 224293.

Canadian Women's League
DEC 2: An invitation is extended to all Canadian women to attend this month's meeting to be held Saturday, December 2 from 4 to 6 pm in Jahria. For more information please call 5620352 or 2563025.

People's Trust Club

DEC 29: People's Trust Club welcomes you to a day of your life at Ramada Al Salam (Marriott) Hotel, New Ballroom from 10.30 am onwards. Nimble feet, hungry palate, perfect blend of music and style. A get-together with buffet. Featuring Stepping Stones, Top Ranks, Perfect Strangers. There will be novelty and surprises galore. Contact Columbus on 4348218.

Children's competition at IAC
THE result of the qualifying round of the children's competition held in Indian Arts Circle were already announced on 17-11-1989. The results are displayed in all schools and Indian Arts Circle. The finals will take place on 30-11-89, 15-12-89, 27-12-89, 28-12-89 at Indian Arts Circle. For more information please contact on telephone nos. 3904817 or 5622359.

Christmas Cantata

THE English Language congregation choir of the National Evangelical Church will sing the Christmas Musical "Meet Him in the Manger" on 5th Wed. and 10th Sunday at 6 pm please plan to attend one of these evenings and celebrate the advent season.

IAC Children's Competition

THE dates of finals of the Children's Competition will take place at IAC Funaites on 13th, 14th, 15th, 27th and 28th December '89 and 18th January '90 respectively. For more details contact Indian Schools.

Radha and Raja

INDIA'S finest Kuchipudi Dancers Dr Radha and Dr Raja Reddi are going to present their dance performance on 7th and 8th of December at Indian Arts Circle Auditorium. For details please contact 3904817.

ACT Auditions

AUDITIONS for ACT's upcoming production of "The Skin of Our Teeth" will be held Wednesday, December 6th from 7.30 to 9.30 and Thursday, December 7th from 3.00 to 5.00. The production is scheduled for Feb 20 - 22nd. Parts are available to suit your abilities and schedule. Any person interested in getting involved please call 5620332 from 5.00 to 7.00 pm for more details.

Music Night

MUSIC Night at "The Lonesome Traveller". A musical evening in a cafe atmosphere featuring performers from the Kuwait Folk Group performing British traditional music, folk, pop and country songs. The evening is being produced by ACT and will provide you with a unique night out. It is being held December 17th at 8.00 pm at the Holiday Inn. For more details, call 5620332 from 5.00 to 7.00 pm.

Ladies International League

2ND Big Meeting - Tuesday 5th December at Sheraton Hotel in Ballroom A from 7 pm - 10 pm. Our programme this month will be a Winter Party and Mini Bazaar. Raffle and door prizes as well as many other prizes too. Why not come along and join in on the fun. Bring your friends and enjoy a social evening in a relaxed atmosphere meeting other people and making new friends. All ladies welcome. There will be a charge at the door.

Opera Star

ARAXIA Davtian, a world renowned Opera Star, and Diana Mkrtchian, an internationally famous pianist will be performing at the Kuwait International Hotel on December 4 in the Grand Ballroom. The programme will be starting at precisely 8.00 pm. A reception dinner is included. Tickets available from Boodai Aviation: 2426319 and Kuwait

International Hotel: 2530000 ext 8039.

The Weekend Club

KEEP your dates with the Weekend Club for the "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr and the "Red & Black Nite" on the first day of Eid Al Adha.

Kuwait Goans

DEC 15: Annual children's X'mas tree function will be held at the Messillah Beach Hotel on Friday, December 15/89 from 9.30am onwards. Lots of prizes and surprises await for one and all. Top Ranks in attendance.

To avoid disappointment call for your early bookings on 2413348.

Willy Nite

KONKANI Musical show on Thursday, 30 November is being held at 6.30 pm at the Indian Arts Circle Funaites.

British Council

STORY time: Thursday, 30 Nov. 10.30 am. Come and enjoy the magic of books with a professional story teller. Children of all nationalities of ages 3 - 7 are invited. Please book seats by calling 2515512; 2533204; 253327.

Daniella Children's Party

ALL Dances in Kuwait are invited for the annual children's party "Juletrae" to be held at the Gazette Club on Friday December 15 at 3 pm. Tickets to be purchased from Inge on 3727688 ext 207 or Winnie on 5733382 before December 10.

SPORTS

Mitsubishi Pajero Bowling Tournament

THE Mitsubishi Pajero Bowling Tournament sponsored by the Al Mulla Group of Companies and presented by Kuwait International Hotel is scheduled for 2nd December. The tournament will be among 6 different banks of Kuwait with each team comprising of 7 contestants. Representatives of each team met with the PR Managers of Al Mulla and Kuwait International to finalise details of the event. It will be held at the KIH eight lane ten pin bowling alley at 6.00 pm.



Sherine



Rosy

Lucky winners

Arab Times Bingo number 73 winners received their prizes yesterday. Top: Sherine Abraham (second full house). Bottom: Rosy Athaide (third full house).

● All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.



A touch of class

The best cooks may lay out the best meals but it can be made more palatable by decorating the table with delicately carved fruits and vegetables into a variety of shapes. Ladies of the International Women's Association and the German Club were invited to a Vegetable Carving and Buffet Demonstration by Monika Simon, wife of the General Manager of the Kuwait International Hotel. Picture shows Simon making a demonstration. Noel Paelmo, kitchen artist also displayed his skills on the occasion.

كندا والاس

BUSINESS & FINANCE

More room for Opec oil on world markets

Lukman sees declines in US, Soviet oil output

VIENNA, Nov 29, (Reuters): Lower US and Soviet oil production next year should help Opec sales, Rilwanu Lukman, president of the exporters' group, said today.

He told reporters that Opec, at its semi-annual meeting here this week, was cautious in setting production quotas for the first half of 1990 but was still assuming Soviet and US output would drop at least one million barrels per day (BPD).

Lukman, who is also Nigeria's Oil Minister, said that informed sources estimated output would decline by 500,000 BPD each in the United States and the Soviet Union next year, making more room for Opec oil on world markets.

"We can think about that (level) but we think the figures will be higher than that," he added.

He was speaking a day after the fractious 13-member group lifted its overall official production ceiling for the first six months of 1990 to 22 million BPD, up from 20.5 million, and adopted a minimum target price of \$18 a barrel.

In the bizarre workings of the oil market, however, the higher quotas are actually meant to trim the amount of Opec oil flooding into world markets.

The reason largely is that Kuwait, a major Gulf producer, agreed to keep to its 1.5 million BPD quota, and Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest exporter,

Japan hails Opec accord

TOKYO, Nov 29, (Kuna): Japanese officials today praised the agreement reached by members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), saying that it will not affect the international market.

Referring to Opec's agreement yesterday to raise oil production of its members to 22 million barrels per day for the first half of 1990, the officials also welcomed the decision to raise Kuwait's share from 1.1 million barrels per day to 1.5 million.

The officials noted that Kuwait's acceptance of the new quota indicated that Opec is stepping forward to re-establish its power as a unified organisation. The officials also underlined that the new production agreement reflected "political considerations" that Opec will maintain oil prices at \$18 per barrel as the lowest price for crude oil.

pledged not to raise its exports. Present Opec production is now above 23 million BPD.

Lukman said that Opec's estimate that demand for Opec oil would be 21.7 million BPD in

the first three months of the new year was realistic and perhaps too low.

"I personally think the estimate is very much on the conservative side," he said.

Over the longer term, Lukman said it was in Opec's interest not to see oil prices jump sharply.

"Ultimately, we would like to see \$18 sustained in real terms, but you must take into account competition" from alternative fuels.

"We would prefer a gentle increase in prices over the longer term," he added.

World oil prices fell despite an agreement by Opec in Vienna yesterday setting a crude oil output ceiling of just over 22 million barrels per day for the first six months of 1990.

The pact, signed by all 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, failed to convince the world's oil markets that the group can

absorb crude oil supplies enough to drive the average price of Opec crude up to its target of \$18 a barrel.

Opec's current ceiling is 20.5 million barrels daily.

The deal, which took six days to hammer out in Vienna, does not solve the problem of chronic overproduction.

Crude oil prices in the United States dropped 38 cents a barrel to \$19.25 for the benchmark grade West Texas Intermediate on the New York Mercantile Exchange. US prices are higher than the Opec benchmark, due mainly to shipment costs from oil fields to North America.

Oil industry analysts said the thorny problem of overproduc-

tion remains unsettled and Opec volumes remain high enough to set the stage for potentially large price declines when world demand falls next spring.

"The (pact) should be a modest negative for oil markets in the near-term," said C.J. Lawrence analyst Charles Maxwell.

"It denotes a failure by Opec once again to deal forthrightly with the pressing issue of quota reallocation among producers," he added.

Analysts widely expect the first true test of the new agreement to come at the end of the first quarter when oil demand typically declines as the weather warms and the world economy is expected to slow.

Sheikh Ali lauds Opec's new spirit of co-operation

Kuwait to stick to new Opec accord

VIENNA, Nov 29, (Kuna): Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa described the last Opec ministerial conference as a turning point in the history of the organisation and expressed deep satisfaction with the meeting's outcome.

Speaking at a press conference held here yesterday, the Kuwaiti official welcomed the council's decision to upgrade Kuwait's oil production quota to 1.5 million barrels per day within the organisation's new ceiling of 22 million bpd for the first half of next year.

Hailing the rational and realistic spirit that prevailed at the atmosphere, Sheikh Ali said such spirit lays the grounds of an optimistic attitude in the Opec's future meetings and decisions.

Kuwait, he added, is fully prepared to adhere to the new Opec agreement, which can be considered a good step in case of commitment by all member countries.

Sheikh Ali expected that the world oil market will be run by two or three countries, including Kuwait, during the few coming years. Sheikh Ali stressed that the most important aspect for establishing lasting price stability was the "spirit of co-operation" within Opec.

Opec production ceiling, Sheikh Ali expected, will reach a level of 22.5 million bpd during the first quarter of the next year because some members will exceed their production quotas such as the United Arab Emirates, while other countries will not be able to produce their official quotas.

He also expected a rise in the Opec production to 24 million bpd during the last quarter of 1991 as a result of rise in demand.



Oil ministers of Iraq, Saddam Abdul Raheem Al-Ghathafi (left), Hisham Mohiddin-Nazer of Saudi Arabia (centre) and Sheikh Ali Khalifa of Kuwait leave their conference room after talks during a full Opec meeting in Vienna. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sheikh Ali hoped the UAE would join the Opec agreement, indicating in this regard to ongoing efforts to urge the emirates to accept the agreement in the interest of the organisation and its member states.

Adherence to the agreement by all members, he stressed, would help stabilise oil prices, which are expected to rise if the member countries demonstrated spirit of full solidarity and responsibility toward the new agreement.

The Kuwaiti delegation, chaired by Sheikh Ali, played a major role in

bringing the conference to success by accepting Kuwait's new quota of 1.5 million bpd, which is a modest level compared to Kuwait's real trade and technical potentials.

A similar role was played by the delegation regarding side consultations and bilateral talks aimed at overcoming the obstacles facing the agreement, materialising Kuwait's keenness on solidarity among member states.

An atmosphere of co-ordination also prevailed during the conference between the GCC oil ministers to

render the conference a success through concluding an agreement.

The Opec's ministerial council ended its meetings here yesterday after having reached an agreement on production ceiling — 22 million bpd — and an official price of \$18 per barrel during the first half of the next year.

On London's International Petroleum Exchange, which closed before announcement of the Opec accord, Britain's North Sea Brent crude for January delivery fell 15 cents to \$18.29 a barrel.

Matsushita leaves record \$1.75b legacy

TOKYO, Nov 29, (Agencies): Konosuke Matsushita, founder of Matsushita Electric Industrial Company, who died in April at the age of 94, left 244.9 billion yen (\$1.75 billion) to his heirs, local media reports said, quoting the National Tax Agency Office in Osaka.

Most of the legacy was expected to be in the form of shares in Matsushita group companies, Kyodo News Agency said today. Matsushita's wife Mumenko, 93, will inherit 122.5 billion yen (\$875 million), his 68-year-old daughter 44.6 billion yen (\$318 million), and five other beneficiaries will share the rest.

Tax officials declined to specify the total amount of inheritance tax, but said the widow's share is tax-free while the others must pay up to 70 per cent of their shares.

The Matsushita business group, consisting of Matsushita Electric Industrial and its 147 subsidiaries world-wide, had consolidated sales of 5.45 trillion yen (\$37.98 billion) in fiscal 1988, which ended March 31.

Matsushita rose from poverty to found the business group and become Japan's leading post-World War II industrialist.

An orphan, Matsushita started his company in 1918 with one product — an electric light socket of his own design, three employees and capital of about \$50.

Today, in tens of thousands of stores around the world, Matsushita products are sold under the brand names of Panasonic and National. The more than 14,000 products range from electric batteries and rice cookers to videotape recorders and computer chips.

Gorbachev may seek economic concession

Soviet leader won't bring begging bowl

LONDON, Nov 29, (Reuters): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will want to chip away at cold war trade barriers when he meets President George Bush off Malta this weekend but he has made clear he won't be bringing a begging bowl.

Facing a stagnating economy at home and seeing his own reforms overtaken by the breakneck pace of change elsewhere in the Eastern bloc, Gorbachev is expected to step up his campaign to integrate the Soviet economy more closely with the West.

"Gorbachev will be pulling out all the stops because of the dire state of the economy," said Martin McCauley of London University's School of Slavonic and East European Studies.

"And for Bush there could be a lot of mileage in helping Moscow out of the mess," McCauley added.

But political analysts said Soviet officials have made it plain Moscow is not ready to enter into a deal to secure aid in return for economic and political reform — the model the West is pursuing with Poland, Hungary and East Germany.

In a clear rebuff last month, Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said talk of Western aid "offends our pride."

"The Soviet Union is not going to stand for the basic policy conditionality that is being forced on Eastern Europe," said Jim Rollo, economist at the Royal Institute for International Affairs in London.

Instead, political analysts say Gorbachev's strategy will be to argue that trade and economic relations between the superpowers have to be put on a normal commercial footing and restrictions of the cold war era should be lifted.

The dash towards democracy in Poland, Hungary, East Germany, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia has certainly set the stage for a sweeping review of the West's economic barriers which for four decades kept the superpowers at arms length.

Bush has so far reacted with caution, warning that it is difficult to forecast events in the Eastern bloc even 10 days ahead and sensing that the economic crisis in the Soviet Union will put Gorbachev very much on the defensive.

But analysts believe Bush will also want to signal his support for reform and could choose to waive punitive tariffs on Soviet exports, widely seen as a relic of the cold war era.

The summit, on US and Soviet warships off the coast of Malta, will be the first meeting between the two since Bush entered the White House in January and looks set to be dominated by political and military implications of the East bloc turmoil.

Washington has sought to play down the potential savings from US defence cuts and tried to soothe Nato fears of a surprise news arms deal without Europe's agreement.

But for Gorbachev a cut in arms spending — which Western analysts estimate takes up to 17 per cent of Soviet gross national product — would relieve a big strain on the budget.

Arms considerations aside, analysts still say there are three main areas in which Gorbachev will be seeking economic concessions from Washington, with trade topping the list.

Focus on pension scheme

(Continued from Page 16)

Your main consideration should be long-term security, tax-efficiency, profitability and, in this unstable work-world of ours, freedom to adjust to changing circumstances — flexibility.

Gambling in futures, options or high-risk funds is out of the question since the consequences of losing the gamble are too catastrophic to contemplate. Also, don't be too concerned about charges (within reason, of course). The company managing your retirement funds must make a reasonable profit, also, otherwise they won't be around in thirty five years and low-risk Blue Chip Funds should form about 40 per cent of your fund, with the remaining 60 per cent in low to medium risk equities, widely spread over a range of industries and geographical locations.

You cannot even afford to take as much risk as the occupational scheme managers, since your input time is fixed and only your own contributions and growth thereon can be applied for your benefit. To compensate for this, however, is the lack of restriction on you at maturity — the normal onshore mechanism for actually providing the pension at retirement date is to buy "Compulsory-Purchase Annuity" from an institution and this restriction does not apply to you. That factor alone can greatly assist you to your advantage since Annuity rates for sixty-year-olds are abysmal!

Finally, a word or warning — the subject of pension may very well apply to you also. The extended family principle has been shown to break down very quickly in an atmosphere of rapid industrial development and its consequent "mobility of labour" requirements. The rate at which Kuwait and other industrial centres are growing and the percentages of people not indigenous and not having families in those particular centres bodes ill for the younger "incomers," who may be putting all their eggs in that "family basket."

Dollar lower, gold higher

LONDON, Nov 29, (AP): The US dollar fell today against all major currencies in moderate European trading, but in late trading it recovered some of its losses in profit-taking. Gold prices rose.

The West German mark, which has surged since East Germany opened the Berlin Wall on Nov 9, continued to capture the market's attention as dealers sought to take profits.

Europe's efforts to drive the mark lower were thwarted Tuesday by fresh buying of New York. The opening of the Berlin Wall has raised expectations that West German industry will benefit from the new opening to the East.

"There is no suggestion that this is the end of the mark rally," said a senior dealer at a US investment bank. But the mark's recent surge, he said, has been "difficult to rationalise."

In Tokyo, the dollar fell 0.12 Japanese yen to a closing 143.53 yen. Later, in London, it fell further to 143.15 yen.

Other late dollar rates in Europe compared with late Tuesday:

- 1.7825 West German marks, down from 1.7880
- 1.5895 Swiss francs, down from 1.5950
- 6.0810 French francs, down from 6.1035
- 2.0100 Dutch guilders, down from 2.0270
- 1.315.50 Italian lire, down from 1.319.50
- 1.1658 Canadian dollars, down from 1.1674

In London, the British pound rose to \$1.5655 from \$1.5625 late Tuesday.

Gold bullion edged higher in moderate trading.

Al Khaled invited

KUWAIT, Nov 29, (Kuna): Commerce and Industry Minister Faisal Abdul Razza Al Khaled today received an invitation to visit Egypt from Egyptian Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Yousari Moustapha to attend the opening of the 23rd International Cairo fair next March 10-23.

Egyptian ambassador to Kuwait Saeed Mahmoud Rifat delivered the invitation during a meeting with Al Khaled.

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Tehran and China sign trade pact

NICOSIA, Nov 29, (AP): China has agreed to co-operate with Iran on projects for a paper factory, a tyre plant and a power station in Iran, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported today.

It said the letter of understanding was signed at the conclusion of a three-day trip to Tehran by the Chinese Minister of Foreign Economic Relations, Zheng Tuobin. He left today.

The agency, monitored in Cyprus, said the two sides also agreed that trade between China and Iran will now be paid for with hard currency, replacing the barter system used until now.

Zheng said trade between the two nations was expected to amount to about \$600 million in 1990, the same figure as this year.

Earlier, the Chinese official told his Iranian hosts that other economic co-operation agreements signed by President Hashemi Rafsanjani during his visit to Beijing also would be implemented.

Rafsanjani, then the country's Parliament speaker, visited China in June 1985.

The Chinese are expected to get large reconstruction projects in return for their close ties with Iran during the eight-year Gulf war.

China was one of Tehran's largest arms suppliers during the war, when Iran faced an arms embargo by the United States and other Western countries.

Meanwhile, an Iranian trade delegation is in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for talks on economic and trade co-operation, the official emirate news agency Wam said today.

Tight liquidity

KD deposit rates firm

KUWAIT, Nov 29, (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposits firmed across the board in moderate trade today as operators covered positions amid tightening liquidity.

Dealers said a new issue of 150 million dinars of 91-day Kuwaiti treasury bills did not have much impact as a previous issue was rolled over on the same day.

Banks also bought treasury bills on the secondary market at 8-3/8 per cent to help cover day-to-day positions.

Overnight funds dealt at 8-1/2 per cent, after business of 8-3/8 on Tuesday. Tomorrow's market, interest and one-week were all well-bid at 8-3/8, with quotes firming 1/8 point on the offer side to 8-3/4, 3/8.

The one-month firm 1/8 point to 8-5/8, 3/8 per cent. Two months to one-year were marked up 1/16 point to 8-9/16, 5/16. Business was reported in the six-months at 8-1/2.

The Central Bank adjusted its discount rate from 10.25 to 10.50 per cent, from 0.25 to 0.50 per cent on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, short-dated Saudi riyal interbank deposit rates eased today based on technical factors and the market was extremely quiet, dealers said.

Spot-neer value rate Saturday was quoted as low as 6-13/16, 1/2 as banks in the kingdom tried to get rid of their excess liquidity for the European weekend, when there is nowhere outside the Gulf to place them. One week was seen not much changed around 7-7/8, 1/2 per cent.

Fixed periods were mostly stable with one month around 8-1/8, eight per cent and three months to one year 8-1/2, 7-15/16 per cent.

The spot riyal value rate Saturday was quoted around 3.7513/16 against the dollar.

Currency rates

KUWAIT, Nov 29, (Kuna): Following are the average KD interest rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today.

	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.29625	0.29741
Sterling	0.46375	0.46491
DM	0.16925	0.16941
S.F.	0.16562	0.16578
F.F.	0.04891	0.04899
Yen	0.00250	0.00250
Japan	0.00261	0.00261
Bah. din	0.78527	0.78919
LAH Dh	0.00625	0.00694
S. Riyal	0.07840	0.07930
O. Riyal	0.08134	0.08170
O. Riyal	0.07926	0.07285

Interest Rates

KUWAIT, Nov 29, (Kuna): Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Period	Rate	Offered
1 month	8-5/16	8-9/16
3 months	8-5/16	8-9/16
6 months	8-1/4	8-1/2
1 year	8-1/4	8-1/2

EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	17.600
Sri Lankan rupee	7.530
Pakistan rupee	14.030
Bangladesh taka	9.130
Pound sterling	29730
US dollar	46675
UAE dirham	08092
Deutsche mark	16685
Japanese yen	002079

Jordan cuts new deal with bank creditors

AMMAN, Nov 29, (Reuters): Jordan has agreed to reschedule terms with a steering committee of bank creditors grouped in the London Club, banking sources said today.

They said the 90 or so Western and Arab banks involved would probably approve the deal, which gives Jordan easier terms than those originally agreed in principle more than 11 weeks ago.

Then Amman pledged to pay interest of about \$80 million due in 1989 by the end of the year. Banks will now let it defer payment of half the total until the first quarter of 1990, the sources said.

When Jordan is current with interest payments, the banks would be prepared to

provide new loans worth \$50 million at 13/16 point over Libor, the sources added.

They expected Jordan to make an initial interest payment of \$20 million today or Thursday and 20 million on Dec 15. It would pay \$16 million on Jan 10, 13 million on Feb 15 and the balance by March 31.

The sources said the banks had also cut their management fees, but no details were available.

Jordanian officials declined to comment but they confirmed last week that a new accord was being discussed.

The initial September agreement had said banks would defer repayments of \$575 million of principal due from January

1, 1989 to June 30, 1991 on debts of \$1.1 billion.

But Jordan's cabinet refused to approve the terms. The Finance Ministry then sought to cut the agreed interest margin from 13/16 point over Libor to 5/8 point and asked banks to release about \$48 million in undisbursed loans.

The latest agreement does not alter the interest rate, described by one source as "bargain basement", but the new money element will net Jordan roughly what it would have received if the undisbursed parts of current loans had been forthcoming.

Jordan's foreign debt was \$8.2 billion at

the end of 1988, including \$1.1 billion in undisbursed loans. Before rescheduling it faced repayments of \$1.21 billion this year and 1.28 billion in 1990.

It reached a rescheduling agreement with the Paris Club of government creditors in July and has since signed five bilateral accords with club members.

Gulf International Bank B.S.C. and Standard Chartered Bank are co-chairmen of the London Club steering committee set up in July. Other members are Banque Nationale de Paris, Commercial Bank of Kuwait, Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co and Union Des Banques Arabes et Francaises (U.B.A.F.).

\$938m aid for Poland, Hungary

Bush signs aid package

WASHINGTON, Nov 29, (UPI): President Bush signed a \$938 million three-year aid package for Poland and Hungary yesterday, saying the funds must be "seed money" to put the two Eastern European nations on the road to economic reform.

Bush signed the measure at nearby Blair House, the President's guest house, where he hosted a send-off reception for the 50-member US economic delegation to Poland.

"We've got to recognize the fact that dollars alone won't make the difference," Bush said. "Our aid must be seed money for free market reform and for the involvement of our private sector."

He told the delegation, which will provide economic advice to Poland's new non-communist government, it is embarking "on a mission of tremendous importance—a history-making journey to a country making history every day."

Bush, who leaves Thursday for a weekend summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in the Mediterranean, told the delegation, "I want to know how this goes."

The President asked the delegation to try to reach him with news while he is at the summit. He said, "it would give me some flexibility in my talks" with Gorbachev.

Congress passed the aid package earlier this month during a US visit by Solidarity founder Lech Walesa, the Polish politician who sparked an explosion of democracy in Eastern Europe.

Bush had initially proposed a \$350 million, three-year programme for Hungary and financially troubled Poland. But Congress, with Bush's approval, boosted the figure to \$938 million.

In a two-page statement yesterday, Bush said: "Congress has crafted a

bill responsive to my requests, as well as providing a number of additional programmes, all designed to support our national goal: to help the cause of political and economic freedom in Poland and Hungary."

Included in the package is medical aid, private enterprise funds to help develop private businesses in the two countries, the first use of peace corps workers in the two nations, and \$125 million for food assistance. Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter said a \$20 million food for peace agreement would be signed Thursday in Poland.

Yeutter said Bush is already considering whether to send more economic missions to help Eastern European countries adopt free enterprise systems.

The 50-member US mission to Poland, headed by Yeutter, Labour Secretary Elizabeth Dole and Commerce Secretary Robert Moebscher, is to make a four-day visit.

It is to provide economic advice to Poland's new government and look for ways to ease the transition to a free market system. Dole cautioned there could be "some pain, some difficulties" before the benefits of reform were realised.

Fitzwater said that a 24-nation group set up last summer to support reform in Poland and Hungary have pledged "upwards of \$8 billion" in financial commitments to support economic reform and restructuring in the two countries.

Fitzwater said based on informal talks, "roughly three quarters of the \$8 billion" was slated for Poland. The group, created at the Paris economic summit in July, includes the United States, Japan, Canada, the European Economic Community and other industrialised democracies.

Asked about the wave of pro-

reform enthusiasm that has swept Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and other Eastern European countries, Yeutter said, "we just had some general discussions" with Bush whether similar missions should be mounted.

"I'd say it's too early to determine whether a similar mission would be appropriate in some of the other countries. But it is certainly conceivable that will be the case," Yeutter said. "Many of them will face the same fundamental challenges in learning how to operate a free enterprise system for the first time in many years."

Yeutter said Poles and residents of other nations beginning major economic reforms should be aware "reform is not an overnight proposal," but one that requires months or even years to complete.

"One of the messages that I will certainly deliver in Poland, and elsewhere in Eastern Europe if I travel there, is patience is an imperative. One will not achieve economic reform in these countries overnight. It's probably three- to five-year process at a minimum, in some areas, more than that."

Congress has authorized up to \$938 million in food and economic aid to Poland and Hungary this fiscal year. The package was approved shortly after Polish labour leader Lech Walesa visited Washington earlier this month.

Moebscher said he believed some of the business leaders on the mission would be considering investments in Poland.

Yeutter said the mission, on its return to the United States, would provide "some immediate recommendations" for Bush. Moebscher said the trip would include further discussions on how to encourage US business investment in Poland.

Focus on pension scheme

Expat finance

By Tony Mustafa
Overseas Financial Services

THE life assurance basic training course says that the life industry exists to protect people against the twin evils of "dying too soon and living too long." I covered the first eventually in my last article and would now like to move onto the subject of how to cater for the second. We are still in the need rather than greed sector, so what I am advocating here is a necessity rather than a desirable frill.

The subject is so evocative, in fact, that no political parties in opposition have a habit of using it to attack governments the world over, but their immediate reaction on being elected to office is to form a committee to decide on how they, in their turn, are going to handle the thorny subject, thereby effectively delaying any need to make a decision until the next election. The reason for this irrational behaviour can be summed up in a word—expense.

The left-wing/democratic/socialist attitude seems to favour the approach that the nation's senior citizens should be provided for by the state, for whom they have reared the current generation of workforce. However, with a fairly frequent retirement age of sixty now creeping up, it is commonplace to find two generations of retired large chunk of that workforce unemployed, this backward step towards the "extended family" concept of pre-industrial revolution days is found to bear down very heavily on the younger generations of tax-payers. Modern medicine and its consequent improved life expectancy have thrown the equation out of balance!

The right-wing/conservative/conservative approach, on the other hand, is that the thrifty, hardworking citizen will not only educate his/her children to a high level, but will also have the resources to fund for retirement without having to have recourse to state aid in their latter days. This should not prove an overwhelming burden if all the "workers" can be persuaded to go on until age 65 and then, conveniently depart this world at a pre-ordained score years and tent.

If, however, these same workers insist on giving up work at the incredibly early age of sixty (fifty-five for females) and then go on living to the totally selfish and inconsiderate age of ninety, the funding exercise takes on a whole new aspect.

Euthanasia would seem to be a logical conclusion to this ultra-right wing train of thought which is, of

course, absolutely repugnant to any sane and sensible person. Most expatriates, unfortunately, find themselves forced to face this fairly onerous task of providing for their old age/retirement completely from their own resources. The burden may be lightened by a previous "paid up" pension scheme or by having several years of payment to a social security system behind them, with, as in the British case, continuing access to that system through Class III contributions. On close scrutiny, these provisions usually prove to be woefully inadequate to provide for the needs of the returning expatriate looking forward to a long and happy retirement. So, how do you plan for it?

To begin with, do you have a house or flat to call your own, mortgage free, when you retire? If not, have you got the time and resources to acquire one by then. This, I suggest, is step one. Then, in the light of the last visit home, what you would need as a weekly/monthly/annual income to live on if you were to return tomorrow. Now for the technical bit—get a pocket calculator, put in a national inflation figure and project that figure back a photograph of a chain-saw, that a Company Pension Scheme or at least a Provident Fund be put into action, as soon as possible, may bear fruit—your managing director may be as worried about the prospect as you are. However, don't get too heavy nor form a Workers Committee last it take on the aspect of a mutiny. After all, you did sign the contract for your conditions! An expression of your willingness to contribute substantially to the Scheme may soften the approach!

If that doesn't work, then you must make your own private arrangements, according to your means. In either case you are likely to need the services of a financial adviser who is acquainted with how these work, what levels are required and, very importantly, what the tax treatment of your funds is likely to be in your chosen place of retirement.

There is no such thing as a true pension scheme, some simple Unit Trust purchase packages and some Life Assurance plans. Which one is best of you brings us back to the skill of matching product to individual need which is the province of the financial consultant who should be aware of the full market range and the tax implications in your home-country of any given course of action.

Ludicrous, you think, but how many years ago was it that 5,000 units was considered a good earnings level. In Britain fifteen years ago \$5,000 was a very good annual salary! If we do the same sum assuming an inflation rate of four per cent then the figures we come up with are 40,516 and 85,362 in the person's eighteenth year.

These simple projections show

Japan's auto exports to US continue to fall

Demand shrinks

TOKYO, Nov 29, (UPI): Japan's car exports to the United States continued to decrease amid signs of a slowdown in the US economy and there is little possibility that the trend will be reversed, industry officials said today.

The Japanese car sales to the United States in October plunged 22.2 per cent from a year ago to 155,809 units, the sharpest year-on-year fall this year, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers' Association announced yesterday.

The decrease was against the background of shrinking demand on the US car market and raised calls for removal of the voluntary export controls on Japanese car shipments to the United States.

Japanese automakers limit their car exports to the US market to 2.8 million units a year.

Japanese auto industry sources predicted the US auto market will continue to shrink until 1991 in line with a gradual slowdown in the domestic economy.

They forecast car sales in the United States will fall below 10 million units this year, compared with about 10.48 million units last year.

"Japanese car exports to the United States have begun to fall since July this year, and there are no immediate signs that they will pick up," said a spokesman for the association.

It now appears certain that Japanese car exports to the United States will fall short of the quota for the second straight year this year, the official said.

Japanese automakers failed to consume their quotas by a total of about 200,000 units last year.

The association official attributed the sluggish exports to a slowdown in the US economy and expansion of local car production in the United States by Japanese automakers.

Car production in the United States by Japanese automakers for the first nine months of this year surged about 50 per cent over a year ago to about \$40,000 units, officials of the association said.

Japanese automakers have stepped up their car production in the United States and started "reverse exports" of their products for sale in Japan, where demand is brisk.

Strategy to keep rates high

Major sees more high inflation

LONDON, Nov 29, (Reuters): Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major has prepared financial markets for more bad news when Britain's November inflation figures are released in another three weeks.

"Next month, the recent increase in (home-loan) mortgage rates is bound to make the November figure disappointing," the finance minister said in a parliamentary debate yesterday.

Major gave no specific forecast but his unusual warning about the November retail price index due on December 15 wiped about half a penny off the pound sterling which fell in late London trading to 2.7922/51 marks.

In what several British newspapers reported as a possible policy shift, Major's speech did not contain the usual formula stressing government determination to avoid a depreciation of sterling, which has fallen some 15 per cent against the Deutsche mark this year.

Government sources said Major was simply keen to avoid repeating himself. The policy of Major's predecessor, Nigel Lawson, to link sterling to the mark, was at the heart of the former chancellor's conflict over economic policy with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Lawson resigned last month.

In parliament, Major reiterated the government's strategy of keeping interest rates high as long as necessary to curb inflation.

"Bringing it down will not be easy. Inflation is stubborn and it will take time," he said. "I know it is not a popular message but it is an essential one."

Mortgage rates for home-buyers in Britain have risen an average one per cent this month and analysts said they could push the annual inflation figure, now 7.3 per cent, back towards the politically sensitive eight per cent barrier.

The cost of home loans has risen with bank lending rates that have doubled to 15 per cent in the last 18 months in an effort to curb inflation.

Opinion polls published on Sunday showed the Conservative Party's popularity at its lowest rating in nine years.

One poll in the Observer newspaper showed two-thirds of those questioned believed that, if Labour won the next election, due by mid-1992, Of those, 44 per cent said the pound should go down.

Thatcher, who next month faces her first challenge for party leadership in 14 years, has vowed to remain in office as long as wanted by her party and the electorate.

At the end of a six-day debate, the House of Commons voted on Tuesday night by an overwhelming Conservative majority to accept the government's annual policy statement read by Queen Elizabeth last week at parliament's state opening.

LIEBERT AND EMERSON A COMBINED NEW FORCE IN THE CORRIDORS OF POWER

Responding to the market requirement for increasingly sophisticated and reliable computer support systems, Emerson Electric Company have announced a significant reorganisation of their Computer Support Products Group to provide new levels of service and support to computer users.

From October 1st 1989 responsibility for the sales and service of Emerson three-phase UPS systems will be transferred to Liebert Ltd.

This will provide, from a single source, the complete range of Emerson UPS systems,

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Bank shares

Bank	Share	Price	Change
Barclays	1380	1370	1410
HSBC	215	207.50	212.50
Ind. Natl.	62.50	62.50	62.50
Ind. Natl.	82	82	83.50
Ind. Natl.	185	180	180
Ind. Natl.	60.50	57.50	60
Ind. Natl.	130	130	130
Ind. Natl.	190	187.50	192.50
Ind. Natl.	71	71	70.50
Ind. Natl.	95	95	95
Ind. Natl.	162.50	160	162.50
Ind. Natl.	95.50	95	95
Ind. Natl.	15.50	15.50	15.50
Ind. Natl.	710	710	710
Ind. Natl.	290	275	275
Ind. Natl.	70	70	70
Ind. Natl.	287.50	291.25	291.25
Ind. Natl.	127.50	125	125
Ind. Natl.	1210	1200	1250
Ind. Natl.	48	47.50	48
Ind. Natl.	13.50	13.25	13.50
Ind. Natl.	61	61	61
Ind. Natl.	21.50	21.50	21.50
Ind. Natl.	69	68	68.50
Ind. Natl.	180	177.50	180
Ind. Natl.	60	59.75	60
Ind. Natl.	70	69	69.50
Ind. Natl.	187.50	185	185
Ind. Natl.	74	70	71.50
Ind. Natl.	58	56.50	55
Ind. Natl.	—	—	—
Ind. Natl.	36	33	35
Ind. Natl.	74	72	74
Ind. Natl.	1200	1170	1220
Ind. Natl.	50.50	49.50	51
Ind. Natl.	470	470	470
Ind. Natl.	80	80	80
Ind. Natl.	115.50	112.50	114
Ind. Natl.	350	350	350
Ind. Natl.	1003.5	1002.5	1005

Compiled by Kuwait-India International Exchange Co.

Bank shares

Bank shares

Bank shares

Bank shares

Bank shares

Bank shares</

Film-makers take to locations

Stepping out into uncertainty

By Firoze Rangoonwalla

WHILE the controlled conditions of a studio-made set may enable smooth shooting, it also looks very phoney when the director is trying to show an outdoor location. No amount of effects, lights or groups of extras can bring the skyline, sunlight and reality of faces. So film-makers have to take their entire units on outdoor locations, near or far. The more spectacular it looks, the better it is to combat the threat of the small video screen.

But on outdoors, the stars have to face heat, dust and unruly crowds. Many are the legends about how old stars fought or tamed the mob which gathered to see them and the shooting. Recent examples show how the young new stars tackle the fans (and foes) and the return treatment they get. At the outdoors for "Solah Satra", the crowd became so wild that director Munna Rizvi could not do a thing, while a hefty chap like Arbaaz Khan (son of Ajit) was beaten and the slim svelte Ektaa's modesty was badly outraged. Sunny is also known for losing his temper with the public, and fighting, like papa Dharmendra used to do once.

On the other hand at the locations for "Ugandhar", directed by N. Chandra for Shrikant Sharma, a huge crowd of two to three thousand gathered in Jaipur and its lovely gardens. Yet, they were kept charmed by bearded hero Mithun. College students having their own elections did cause cancellations of shooting. Mithun would bravely walk into the midst of the crowd, request and pacify them. And then he even made them stand and act for the camera. A "real" background was obtained and the producer got free "extras". Mithun knows that N. Chandra could get him a hit like "Tezaab".

In contrast, for the Amitabh starrer "Kaun Sune Fariyad" by K.C. Bokadia, the art directors created Udaipur locales on the vast grounds of Bombay's Chitra Nagar at Goregaon. For two months, workers were busy cutting clusters of trees to make way for the big set. Here, too, crowds could not be totally avoided, though Film-City has now enforced a strict system of the producers issuing passes of particular colour, for their guests and visitors. Yet, the suburban grounds are so open and there are so many entry points, that people gather somehow or the other.

Amitabh took it all rather coolly, though Suresh Oberoi could not control his temper. Moreover, the scene showed Suresh tied to a bullock cart and hammered by goondas. Amitabh's act was to jump, kick and hit the villains who tried to molest Preeti Sapra. Earlier, they filmed the rape and murder of Radhika playing Amit's sister, which leads to the usual tale of vengeance. Jaya Prada is the heroine, while the main villain is Amrish Puri and a scene of his



Ektaa with Chunky at a party.

being tied and dragged behind a speeding jeep was also pictured on the wide set. The shooting went on for more than a month. Another Amitabh film "Hum", produced by ex-actor Ramesh Sharma and directed by Mukul Anand is currently being shot at South's hill station Ooty in Nilgiri mountains. Romantic and action scenes as well as a couple of songs are being filmed on Amit, Kimi, Rajnikanth, Govinda, Shilpa Shirodkar etc. The film is being presented (distributed) by Dinesh Gandhi, a diamond merchant who struck a gold-mine with "Tezaab". Subhash Chai's "Ram Lakhan" was also handled by a diamond dealer Bharat Shah. Many attractive scenes of "Tridev" as well as "Ram Lakhan" were shot at Ooty.

After the success of "Chandni", mainly due to its colourful outdoors in Switzerland, apart from its gorgeous sets, dresses, decor and other locations, many producers are tempted to take off for Kashmir, Kulu, Kodaikanal, Simla, or at least near-by Khadala to bring picturesque appeal, which can only be enjoyed on the big screen. While in Switzerland, Yash Chopra was very tense seeing the amount of work to be done in a foreign country, but his stars Sri Devi and Rishi put him at ease that they would give as much time as he needed.

In "Silsila", Yash had captured the flower gardens of Amsterdam which won praises from even Raj Kapoor who had done it all in "Sangam". On locations in other countries, the stars rarely face any trouble. On the contrary, the few alien onlookers wonder why Indian movie characters chase each other and

small roles to get noticed. Raman Kapoor is actually Raman Maithi who won the IMPPA talent contest but was not signed by any member producer. He wasted two years doing little bits of roles and was about to give up hopes when Dev resurrected him.

Ektaa Sharma not only pretended to be a debutante (she had already done some films). She even gave a lot of trouble to her own Columbus Dev Anand. Then, she began harassment of other producers by changing secretaries, playing truant with shooting dates and leaving films or being thrown out of them. It seems all the advance publicity, photos and coverage of her birthday bash went to her head. She began to think she was really "Awwal Number" (number one) even before Dev Sahab's film was released. (It was kept pending for the cricket season).

Film people having not gone to college cannot easily distinguish between cheese roll, mutton roll, chicken roll and film role. So in all the publicity for "Ladla", they said Mithun was doing a double roll. Perhaps they meant that he was providing twice the amount of mutton or cheese rolled up in the same film.

With the great Amitabh Bachchan falling flat after the mega failure of "Toofan" and "Jadugar", even smaller fry like Gulshan Grover have begun to peek at him. Amit made a public mistake of describing Gulshan Kumar (of "Lal Dupatta Malmal Ka") as Gulshan Grover in a function. Next day at the studios, Grover made nasty remarks that Amit has lost his balance by working in all those trashy flops. That's how he was making such silly mistakes.

A video magazine showed a song being picturised for "Ghar ka Chir" on Chunky and Neelam. Among those who saw and heard the song "Tutak tutak tutiyan" were the composer and the producer of the Punjabi film, for which the song was originally prepared and used. The guys were hopping mad and now they plan to take the dispute to the association of producers. Video mags beware. Film folks may not welcome you any more on the sets.

Star Interview Mini meet Rakha

Q. How do you feel losing out on the role of "Chandni", which has since become a hit and made Sri Devi number one again?
A. One film does not make any difference. I have very good relations with Yash Chopra, yes, despite malicious reports. When he finds a role suited to my temperament, he will be the first to contact me. But I also have many cards by my own sleeve.
Q. Are you hinting at a film by Prakash Mehra with you and Amitabh?
A. Well, maybe. There are reports like that. Let something concrete emerge.
Q. Did you gain anything by that news of a criminal's plan to kidnap you for ransom?
A. I became more aware and alert. I am a single career woman living all by myself, like so many others in the big city Bombay.
Q. By way of publicity?
A. It was certainly not a publicity stunt.
Q. You don't need it?
A. I always say that I am something very special, the way God has made and gifted me. So why should I go for such crutches and straws? I am not falling or drowning.
Q. Is this "special" thinking not egoistic?
A. Every person has a special quality. But we don't look inwards and develop it. We keep looking at others and envying. That is negative and it affects the mind and body fitness.



Rekha seen in a glittering outfit



Amitabh and Bokadia shooting for 'Kaun Sune Fariyad' at Film City.

Ernest saves X'mas: mediocre

By Sham Seekins

ERNEST Saves Christmas has been released now in an effort to get a much help as possible from the seasonal ambiance and it certainly needs all the help it can get. In this case Santa has just arrived in Florida to relinquish his job in favour of honest Joe Carruthers, who is ed to work as presenter on a children's TV show. Having been sacked he has found work in the Orlando Children's Museum. Santa ends up arrested, gets involved with a rebellious teenager called Melody, but all is saved by Ernest, a taxi driver. Ernest is not at all bothered by this bureaucratic age that we live and seems to pass at will where all other find their way barred, with the help of an occasional disguise. Santa manages to win out in the end, as Christmas is saved. If only Ernest had been a bit more likable as a character then the film would have appealed to me much more, as it is I'm sure that the title will manage to keep it going over the next month or so.

The sequel's continue with Eddie and the Cruisers II: Eddie Lives! and Nightmare on Elm Street 5: The Dream Child. In the first Eddie and The Cruisers the 1964 car crash "death" of New Jersey rock star Eddie Wilson (Michael Pare) was examined and indulged in the speculation that Eddie may still be alive. The sequel removes all doubt.

It is now 25 years later, and Eddie is very much alive but hiding out in Canada under the name of Joe West. Eddie has spent the last quarter century embittered about how his manager mishandled his career, and he has chosen (rather selfishly) to allow his friends, family and fans to think he's dead rather than deal with the anguish of stardom. But now that same manager is cashing in on the worldwide Eddie-mania which apparently has not abated since Eddie's "death" by selling an album of old material which the rocker never wanted released. Eddie is now forced to protect his good name.

With much trepidation, he brings together a new band, teaches them the true meaning of rock and roll, and in a rousing finale, he makes his comeback on stage.

One of the problems for the viewer in Kuwait with The Dream Child is that the first four in the series are banned. So with a number five in the series a bit of recapping is required.

The crucial twist to the "Nightmare" films is the concept of Freddy Krueger's killing people in their sleep. The fear of being attacked when at one's most helpless has a corollary in the childhood wisdom that people who die in their dreams die for real. Krueger, a sadistic killer who stalks teenagers in their beds, is thus much more engrossing than the "thing that wouldn't die" sort of rampaging monster which kills everything in sight.

The Dream Child continues the story of Alice (Lisa Vonn), the high-schooler who in episode 4 managed apparently to kill Freddy (Robert Englund). Alice, though she doesn't know it, is pregnant, and Freddy, though Alice doesn't know this either, is insinuating himself not only into her dreams but into that of the baby she is carrying. This is heavy stuff for a slasher/horror film and it reminds anyone just a little of Aliens or David Cronenberg's version of The Fly, then that's because it's meant to.

Slasher films are really nothing more than strings of set pieces in which the baddies prey on individual victims one by one, but "Nightmare 5" is bolstered by a compelling overall theme. The idea of Alice having to enter her unborn baby's dreams to release Freddy's mother from a purgatorial state is a marvel. Also remarkable is a black and white sequence in which Freddy does in a kid who draws comic books. The use of animated effects is so inspired that the film's climax seems routine in comparison.

American Eagle is an action thriller set in the back streets of Casablanca where a CIA contracted mercenary becomes disillusioned with the life he leads. Torn between his private life and the debt he has toward his employer, he is suddenly confronted by a situation where he must decide.

Small Sacrifices is a new American best-seller made for TV starring Farrah Fawcett. The Benson and Hedges "Masters" snooker final is available together with some new American Football games.

Above films by courtesy of the Video Club Tel 5724372, Video Nani Salliyah, and VFI Farwan-ya/Flintas Towers.

Soviet director teasing audiences with a provocative 'Hamlet'

LONDON, (Reuters): Russian director Yuri Lyubimov, bridging language barriers and undaunted by hostile reviews, is teasing audiences around the world with a provocative interpretation of Shakespeare's most famous play.

Lyubimov, who speaks no English, brought his "Hamlet" to London's Old Vic theatre this week — the latest staging post in a tour which will include Europe, the United States, Japan and Australia.

The production, in English, takes liberties with the play's most famous speech and presents "Hamlet" as a Christian tragedy dominated by religious themes.

For Lyubimov, who at 72 has long been established as one of the theatre world's most dynamic and original talents, "Hamlet" represents the highest challenge for any director.

"I don't know a better play in the world — every director dreams of staging it. Each generation for the last 400 years has wanted to express its hopes, disappointments and sorrows through this play," he told Reuters in an interview.

As if to render the tragedy starker and more intense, Lyubimov sets it on a bare stage almost totally devoid of props. His most controversial device is a huge woollen curtain, rotating and shifting to vary the audience's line of vision and the configuration of actors on stage.

Actors hide behind it, themselves in its folds or beat their bodies against it in anguish. The hapless Polonius is stabbed to death through it while eavesdropping on Hamlet's conversation with his mother.

But the curtain's versatility left some critics unimpressed.

Reunion possible Beatles again

LOS ANGELES, Nov 29, (Reuters): It's been a long and winding road but Paul McCartney says the way may finally be clear for a reunion of the three ex-Beatles.

"We might get to play together after all this time," he told reporters before a concert at the Los Angeles forum on Monday night.

McCartney, making his first US tour in 12 years, said a major obstacle to a reunion had been removed with the recent settlement of longstanding lawsuits between the Beatles and their record company, and between himself, George Harrison, Ringo Starr and John Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono.

The Beatles broke up in 1969 amid a wave of lawsuits, many involving the other members against McCartney. Lennon, his songwriting partner, was assassinated in 1980.

McCartney said the project most likely to reunite the group was "the long and winding road" — a film history that has been stalled by their legal problems.

"What might be a good way to start it is this film," he said. "Hopefully we can put the record straight — a possibility is that George and I could write (songs) together. We've never done that."

"Lyubimov's staging of the play suggests that he considers 'Hamlet' to be about a huge mobile curtain which successfully upstages a company of moderately successful actors," scoffed Charles Osborne in the Daily Telegraph.

"This is in no sense an interpretation, yardward or otherwise, of 'Hamlet', but a travesty of a great play."

Lyubimov detects a trace of English snobbery amid the vitriol, and notes the production was highly acclaimed in other

Comeback trail includes gig in courtroom

What's in a rock band name? A lawsuit

LONDON, (AP): For some of the rock 'n' roll groups of the 1960s and 1970s, the comeback trail includes a gig in the courtroom to try to reclaim their household names.

Lineups have changed, founding members have retired, died or gone solo. In some cases, the reunion has entailed lawyers poring over dust files to establish who owns the name of the group.

Members of Yes, the British group that emerged in the 1970s, have just fought a lengthy legal battle to decide who has the right to use the name. Another British group, Pink Floyd, suffered similar tribulations.

The US group the Byrds had to reunite temporarily for three California concerts in January just to lay renewed legal claim to their name, because three different groups, all fragments of the original, were calling themselves the Byrds.

"A lot of acts are getting back together again and touring, so the name is absolutely crucial," said Patrick Isherwood, a music industry lawyer at Frere Chomeley, the London-based law firm that represents the Beatles.

"In a sense that's your passport to make money or not," he said in an interview.

"The names count for a lot. That's why Pink Floyd had their battle with Roger Waters," said

Brian Howard, a lawyer at Russells, a London law firm that represents Waters. "At the end of the day if you've got a good name you sell albums before people have even listened to them."

Pink Floyd illustrates the power of the name.

Forbes magazine estimates that the group's reunion tour and album, "Monetary Loss of Reason," pulled in \$56 million and put Pink Floyd among the 10 biggest entertainment earners of 1989. The album has sold at least two million copies in the United States and at least 100,000 copies in Britain, according to recording industry associations in both countries.

Meanwhile, the latest album by Waters, a bass player who founded Pink Floyd in 1967 but went solo five years ago, sold fewer than one million copies.

If Waters had kept the name Pink Floyd and used different artists, he might have been much more successful, says Chris Gilbert, a London-based music industry manager.

"You could argue that Waters was the creative spearhead of that band from day one."

Waters sought a court order to dissolve the band, calling it "a spent creative force." He lost, but the right to use the giant pig that is one of the group's best-known stage props is still in litigation.

death applies to the king, to Polonius, to Rosencrantz — and they all die. I extracted the essential themes and deliberately underlined them," Lyubimov said.

He also brings out the political dimension of the play, comparing the tyranny of Shakespeare's Danish court with what he called the "awful black farce" of President Nicolae Ceausescu's Romania.

Lyubimov's production features actors of the Leicester Haymarket theatre in central

England, with whom he spoke only through an interpreter. A former actor, he sometimes acted out the parts himself to demonstrate what he wanted.

He dedicates his interpretation to the memory of Vladimir Vysotsky, the actor and poet who played Hamlet at Lyubimov's avant-garde Taganka theatre in Moscow in the 1970s, and died a national hero in 1980.

Lyubimov was accused in 1984 of "activities hostile to the Soviet state" and stripped of his citizenship

while directing Dostoevsky's "Crime and Punishment" in London.

But he has been gradually rehabilitated in his native country, staging productions in Moscow in the past two years and regaining his Soviet nationality earlier this year.

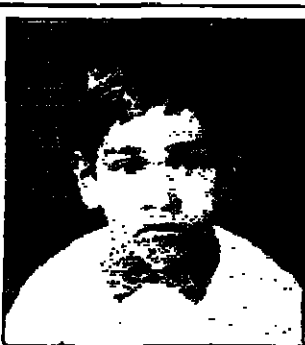
Lyubimov, mobbed by admirers and adoring actors at a hectic reception after a performance of "Hamlet" in London, thinks hard when asked if he will return home for good.

Small Sacrifices is a new American best-seller made for TV starring Farrah Fawcett. The Benson and Hedges "Masters" snooker final is available together with some new American Football games. Above films by courtesy of the Video Club Tel 5724372, Video Nani Salliyah, and VFI Farwan-ya/Flintas Towers.

Happy birthday



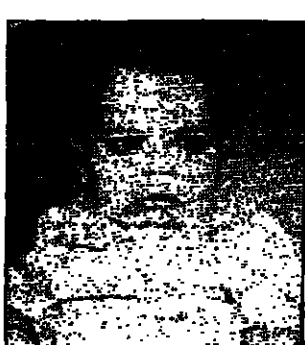
Mamtha Sivan celebrated her birthday on November 5. Belated greetings from parents, family and friends. Mamtha goes to the Indian School, Abbasia and likes watching cartoons.



Cyril Correia celebrates his birthday today, November 28. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends. Cyril goes to the New Indian School and likes drawing and singing.



Deepa Asarpota celebrates her 10th birthday on November 30. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends. Deepa goes to the Indian School and likes drawing.



Mohammed Irshaadullah celebrates his 1st birthday on November 29. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.



Trudy Pinto celebrates her 5th birthday on December 1. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends. Trudy goes to the Carmel School and likes reading, dancing and singing.



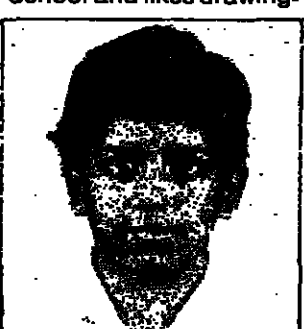
Sheeba Albert celebrates her birthday on November 18. Belated greetings from parents, family and friends. Sheeba goes to the Carmel School and likes watching cartoons.



Craig D'Souza celebrates his birthday on November 30. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends. Craig goes to the Carmel School and likes dancing and drawing.



Arusha Sethi celebrates her 7th birthday on December 1. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends. Arusha goes to the Indian School, Salmiya and likes music.



Melvyn Fernandes celebrates his 10th birthday on November 30. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends. Melvyn goes to the Indian School and likes drawing and painting.



Reena D'Cunha celebrates her 7th birthday on December 1. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends. Reena goes to the Carmel School and likes drawing, singing and acting.



Mudassar Hanif celebrates his birthday on November 29. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends. Mudassar goes to the International School of Pakistan and likes playing.



Leroy Rodrigues celebrates his 5th birthday on December 3. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends. Leroy goes to the New Indian School and likes painting, and dancing.



Mukul Ahuja celebrates his 9th birthday on November 29. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends. Mukul goes to the Indian School, Mangal and likes singing, music and karate.



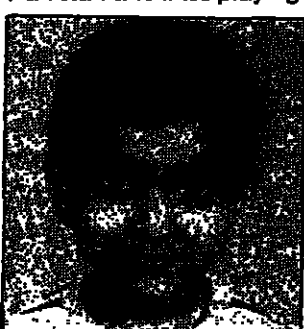
Abeishek Malhotra celebrates his 13th birthday on December 4. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends. Abeishek goes to the Bolwin Boys High School in India and likes reading.



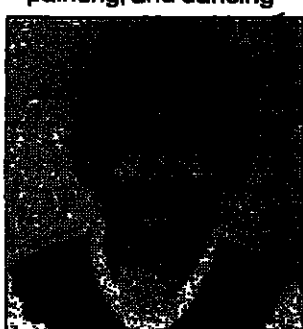
Sidehs Chodankar celebrates his 9th birthday on December 1. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends. Sidehs goes to the Indian School-Salmiya and likes reading and cycling.



Myron Pereira celebrates his 5th birthday on December 4. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends. Myron goes to the United Indian School and likes watching wrestling.



Manu Vaidyan celebrates his 7th birthday on December 1. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends. Manu goes to the United Indian School and likes watching cartoons.



Kenneth Pinto celebrates his 9th birthday on December 3. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends. Kenneth goes to the United Indian School and likes cartoons, coins.

Colour the flowers on the right yellow. Colour the flowers on the left pink and colour the flower in the middle red.



Birthday coupon

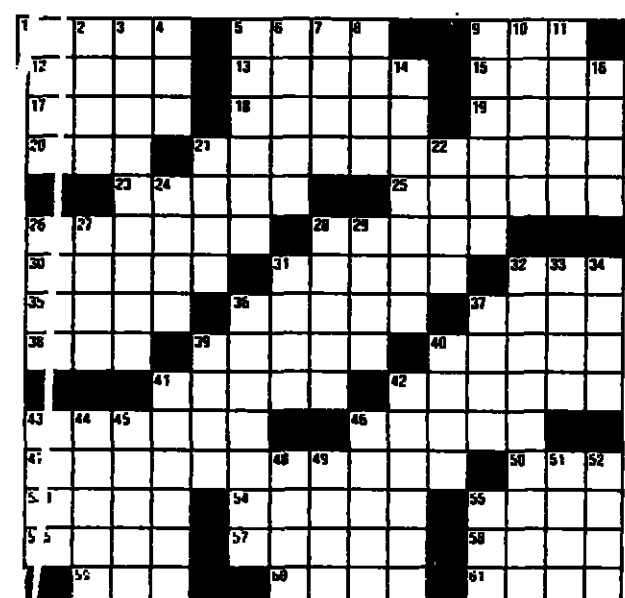
Is your birthday to come soon? Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times? Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday! Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them. The details we need are:

Name: _____
Date of birth: _____
School: _____
Hobbies: _____
Telephone: _____
(confidential)

Your favourite most recent picture (4x6)

Send to:
ARAB TIMES
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13023, Safat,
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To avoid belated greetings please send within a week before the special date

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Of — and Men
 - 5 Room, at the
 - 9 Truck
 - 12 Small
 - 13 Confuse
 - 15 Singer Guthrie
 - 17 — right with the world
 - 18 Lasso
 - 19 Eskimo's vehicle
 - 20 New Prefix
 - 21 Hawaiian landmark
 - 23 Makes a try
 - 25 Peaks
 - 26 Dwell
 - 28 Staff of life
 - 30 Ecot locale
 - 31 Beds-de item
 - 32 Shiver of tennis
 - 35 Older
 - 36 Lets fall
 - 37 Bundle
 - 38 Skirt feature
 - 39 Exhausts
 - 40 Painful areas
 - 41 Exits
 - 42 Part of USA
 - 43 One of the Trumps
 - 46 Squirrel away
 - 47 Parisian landmark
 - 50 Road curve
 - 53 Give out
 - 54 Academy Award
 - 55 Chip in
 - 58 Father
 - 59 Analyze grammatically
 - 56 Crowd clamor
 - 58 Dances of "Cheers"
 - 60 Crowd shouts
- DOWN**
- 1 Lament
 - 2 Run in neutral
 - 3 Roman landmark
 - 4 Hesitant sounds
 - 5 Recorder
 - 6 Pseudonym of a sort
 - 7 Soil of a type
 - 8 Mobile beginning
 - 9 Liquidated, with "in"
 - 10 City on the Rhine
 - 11 Eve's comment
 - 14 Hoofers
 - 16 Betting considerations
 - 21 Word from baby
 - 22 Unit of weight
 - 24 High-pitched sound
 - 26 Hasty
 - 27 A Gardner
 - 28 Ink spots
 - 29 Seance sounds
 - 31 "Rule Britannia!"
 - 32 Athenian landmark
 - 33 Toward shelter
 - 34 Army meal
 - 36 Come to light
 - 37 Feather scarves
 - 39 Wisteria, e.g.
 - 40 Movie great
 - 41 Elevated
 - 42 Cubic meters
 - 43 Spelling contests
 - 44 Curtail
 - 45 Burning
 - 46 Water sound
 - 48 Peter or Paul
 - 49 Pod vegetable
 - 51 Laurel
 - 52 Evening, in Milan
 - 55 Coach Paraghean

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

QATA SALT SHAPE
ERAT TIER MANOR
EMPEROR AUGUSTUS
RYE AMINER TIRE
STAN GATE
SATE GARBO NES
BANISH RIBROAST
ANIL ELATE ATTIA
RESTORER DASHED
ERE PETAL PEER
PEST EPIS
SELL TEFLON WAD
PRAETORIAN GUARD
ATTAR ERNE FLEIA
REIDY REIDS QIRAY

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
DON'T TAKE ANY CHANCES

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A 10 7 4 2
♥ Q J 4
♦ 2
♣ Q J 5

WEST
♠ 3
♥ 10 6 3 2
♦ Q 7 6 5 4 3
♣ 10 3

EAST
♠ 6 5
♥ K 7 5
♦ J 10 9 8
♣ K 8 7 2

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 8
♥ A 9 8
♦ A K
♣ A 9 6 4

The bidding:
South West North East
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
4 NT Pass 4 NT Pass
5 NT Pass 5 NT Pass
6 NT Pass 6 NT Pass
Pass Pass 6 NT Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠
Some hands require declarer to take the percentage line and hope the cards are favorably distributed. Others have a sure-trick solution, which permits declarer to claim the contract early. This hand could have been claimed at trick one.

North's three-heart response and later five-heart bid were transfer bids requesting partner to bid

spades. South's initial rebid announced a maximum in support of spades and his five-club response to Blackwood showed either three aces or none. North had no hesitation about bidding the excellent slam. Can you claim your contract?

This hand was played by Venezuelan internationalist and current New York resident David Berah in an invitational event in London. He won the king of diamonds, cashed the king of spades and ace of diamonds, on which he discarded a heart, then drew the last trump ending in dummy. Now he led the queen of clubs, and the contract was cold whether it won or lost.

If the finesse won, declarer would concede a trick to the king of hearts, then sluff one of the table's clubs on the ace of hearts. If the finesse lost, West would be employed. A heart return would solve declarer's problem in that suit; a club would run to the A 9 in the closed hand, and declarer would have an extra club set up to take care of one of dummy's hearts. And a diamond would allow declarer to ruff in hand while discarding a heart from the board.

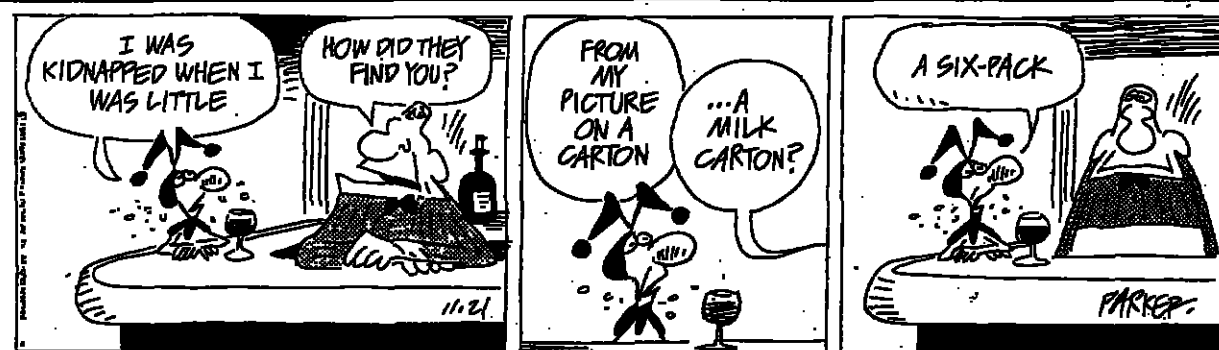
So the best way to play the hand is obvious. Claim the contract at trick one before you have the chance to make a mistake!



"Just been to see his schoolteacher."

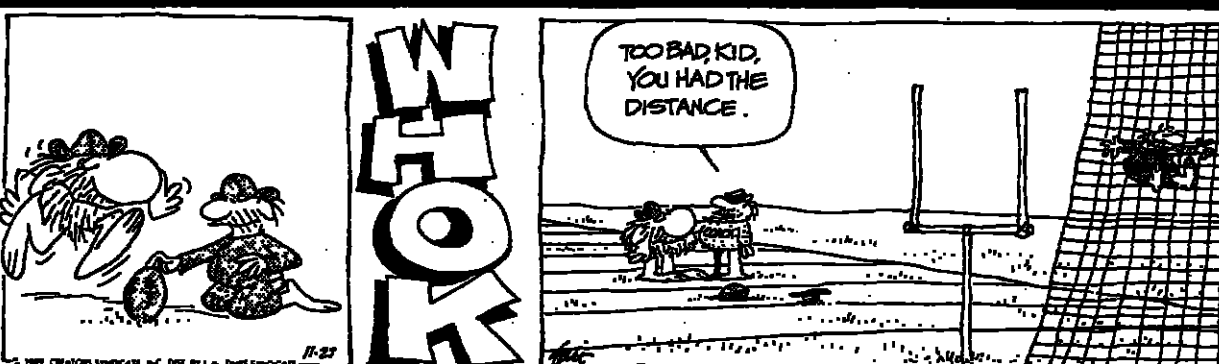
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Grant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

At first nothing will seem to go right for you. However later you will make better progress. Do not spend too much time thinking about what might have been. Be attentive.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will realize the correctness of the phrase "practice makes perfect." You will be more receptive to change. Avoid involving yourself in what does not concern you. Be a little more tactful.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

Something you have been trying to do for some time will now become possible. Do not expect your partner to be perfect in all respects. Take great care when using the road. Be sensible.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You should not try to do too many things all at once. Nor should you allow yourself to become flustered by what remains to be done. Make sure you get enough rest and take sufficient exercise. Be truthful.



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

You will be quite satisfied with the way things are going, but you must not leave it at that. You should try a little harder to concentrate. Avoid dwelling on the past and do not trust to luck. Be reliable.



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

At first you will feel a little tired but later you will have more energy. You should not allow work to take up all your time, enjoy yourself too. Pay a little more attention to other people's opinions. Be fair.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)

If you slow down a little you will act more surely. You should not expect results overnight for no effort on your part. Your lucky numbers are 4 and 28. You will know how to take a disappointment in your stride. Be responsive.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

You will be a little mystified by something you have not done before but it will soon fall into place. You should not expect results all at once and you should try several different ways before you decide on the best.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

A new way of doing things will prove better than the old way. You will have something to be really pleased about. Do not get into a groove, instead welcome change. Be resourceful.



Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19

Make sure you are sitting comfortably and try to take just a little more exercise. The moon's influence will help you to cope with an unusual personal problem. Do not seek to do two things at once. Be generous.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

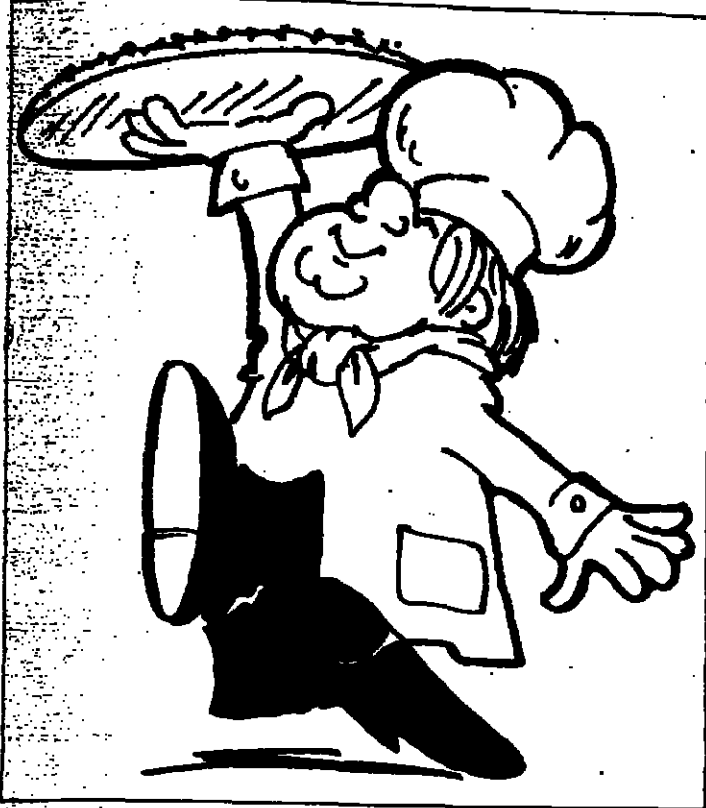
You will have the wind in your sails but must make a change of course. You should leave yourself with enough time for your family and friends. Try to have a good laugh at yourself. Be more considerate.



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

You should show just a little more goodwill towards others. Accept the inevitable instead of fighting it. Make sure you eat and drink sensibly. Be reasonable.

Pizza, Please



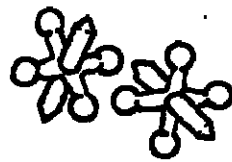
- At the pizza parlor there are 3 sizes of pizza: small, medium and large. Carlo makes 45 small, 72 medium and 115 large pizzas everyday. How many of each does he make in 7 days? — small — medium — large: How many does he make in all?
- Each small pizza takes 1 cup of cheese, each medium takes 1 1/2 cups, each large takes 2 cups. If Carlo makes 7 small, 14 medium and 9 large, how much cheese will he need?
- Sally buys 1 small pizza at £2.49, 1 large cola at 65p and 1 salad at £1.45. How much does Sally pay for dinner?
- Bob's total bill is £10.37. He gives Carlo £20.00. How much change does he get?
- On a hot day Carlo sold 192 small drinks, 105 large drinks and 97 medium drinks. How many drinks did he sell?
- Carlo works from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. fixing pizza dough, from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. preparing cheese and from 9 a.m. to 9.45 a.m. preparing the other ingredients. How long does it take him to prepare the things to make pizza?

Read the words in the box.

top doll wagon bat car hoop kite game puzzle jacks airplane yo-yo

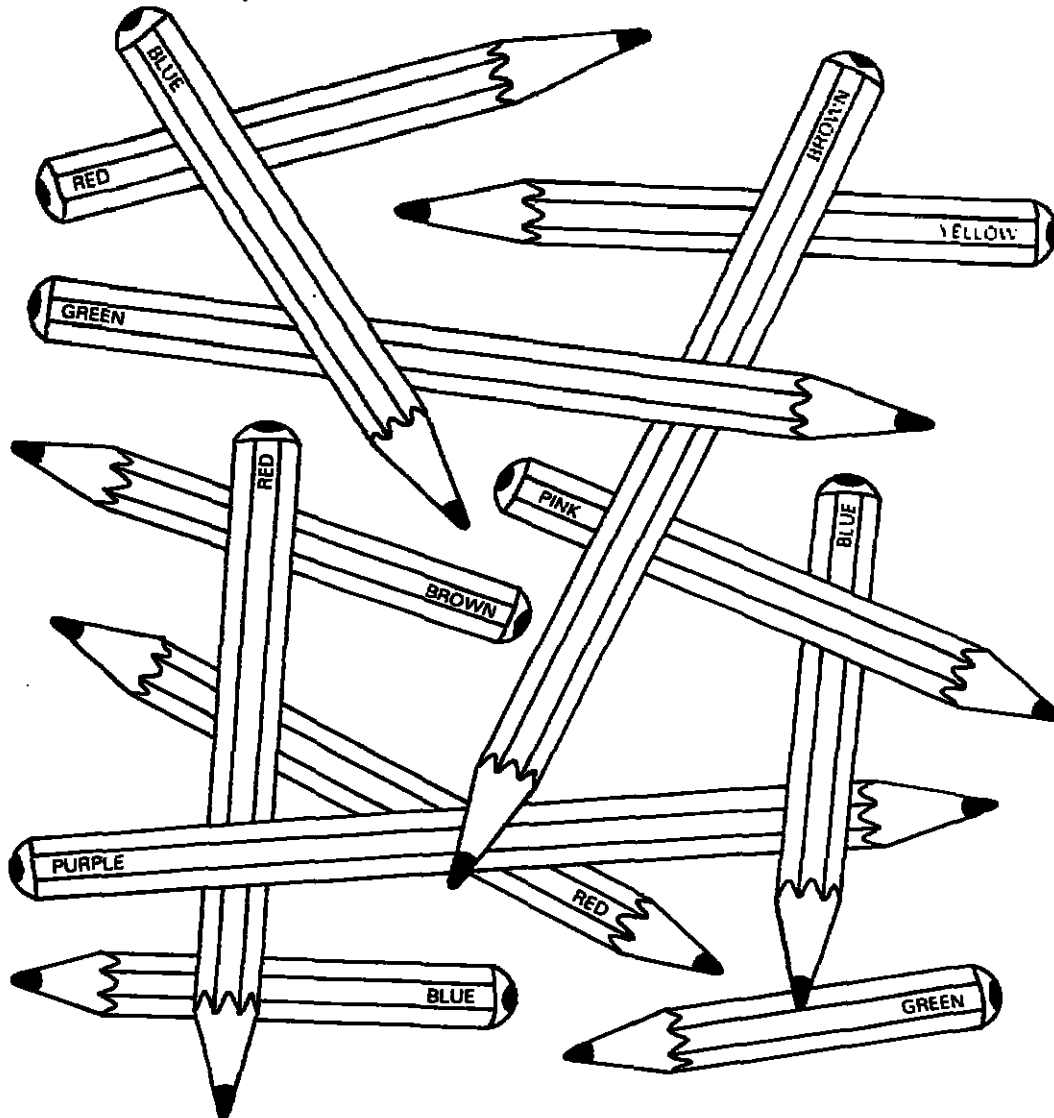
Put the words in alphabetical order on the numbered lines. The first one is done for you.

- airplane
-
-
-
-
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-
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-



Pencils, pencils, pencils

Two of the colours appear three times; can you say what they are? How many pencils are there altogether? Colour the pencils the correct colour.



Dear Junior Readers,
Tomorrow is the first day of the last month of the year 1989. If you had made New Year resolutions during 1988 and have not yet fulfilled them you have thirty-one days left. In some cases it is much too late but in others the opportunity is still there. If you are one of the latter pull your socks up and end the year successfully!
It would be a good idea to start listing your 1990 resolutions this will

save you the trouble of the very beginning of the year.
Try not to aim for things that are almost impossible to fulfill. This will lead to nothing but sore disappointment.
If fact why not write in and tell your friends what your resolutions are. Tips from you may help the world become a better place to live in. Small things always count.

Manol

First and last

The idea of a tunnel under the English Channel is not as new as you might imagine; in Napoleon's reign it was first proposed. Eighty years later in 1880 it was rejected by the British because it would make Britain easier to attack.

The first dentists in Japan pulled teeth with their fingers. They had to practise to make their fingers stronger to do so. Alexei Leonov became the first man to float in space when he left Voskhod II for a short walk in March 1965.

London's first electric underground railway was opened in 1890.

'Limey' is an American nickname for a British sailor. It was first used when the Admiralty issued all sailors with lime juice to stop them falling ill with the dreaded disease, scurvy, which is caused by lack of vitamin C. The name 'Limey' has stuck ever since.

The first name 'Sarah' was not very popular in its original form, 'sara', which in Hebrew meant 'quarrelsome' or 'difficult'. The simple change of the last letter to 'h' meant that 'Sarah' became immensely popular all over the world for it then came to mean 'Princess'!

One of the earliest dinosaurs discovered by nineteenth-century investigator was the so-called Iguanodon. However, when they first tried to reassemble its bones, they made two unfortunate mistakes. To begin with they assembled the bones to show the animal walking on four legs; later evidence showed that it only walked on two. Then, finding an odd spiked bone left over, they attached this to the Iguanodon's head, making it look like a unicorn. It turned out that this spike was really a type of thumb, which should have been attached to the creature's hand.

Word search

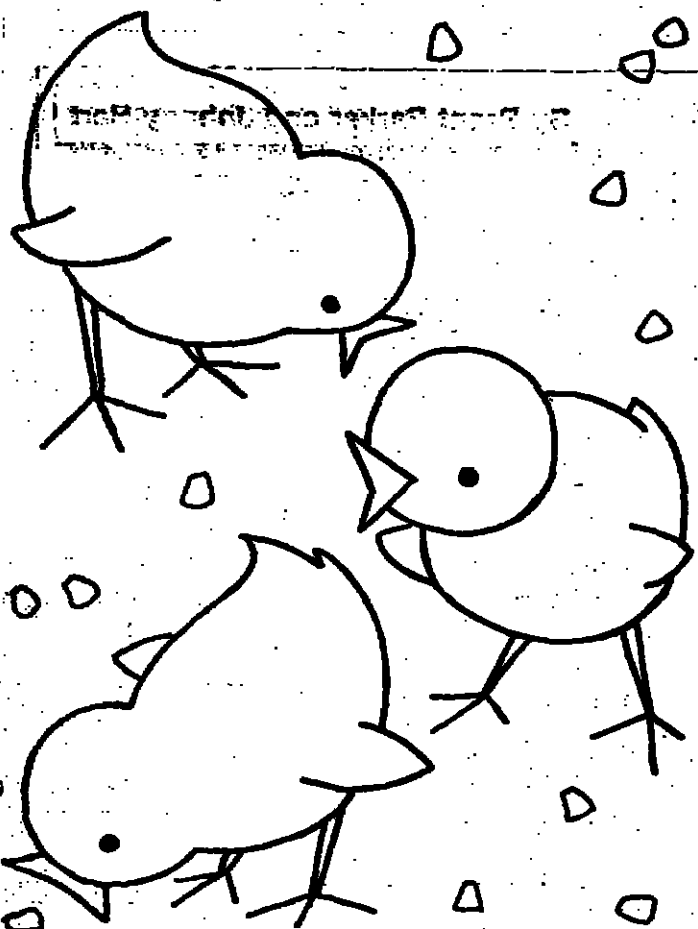
LOOKIN' GOOD

Wow — who does your hair — and have you been dieting, exercising — or both? Seems to us that you're lookin' good!

ALLURE	ELEGANT	MAKEUP	SMILE	SVELTE
APPEAL	FAIR	MODISH	SMOOTH	TASTE
BEAUTIFUL	FINE	NEAT	SNAZZY	TRIM
CHARM	FIT	PEP	STYLE	VOGUE
CHIC	FORM	PERT	SUAVE	
CLASSY	GLAMOUR	POISE		
CLEAN	GOOD	POSH		
CUTE	GRACE	PRETTY		
DAPPER	HANDSOME	SHARP		
DRESSY	HEALTHY	SLEEK		

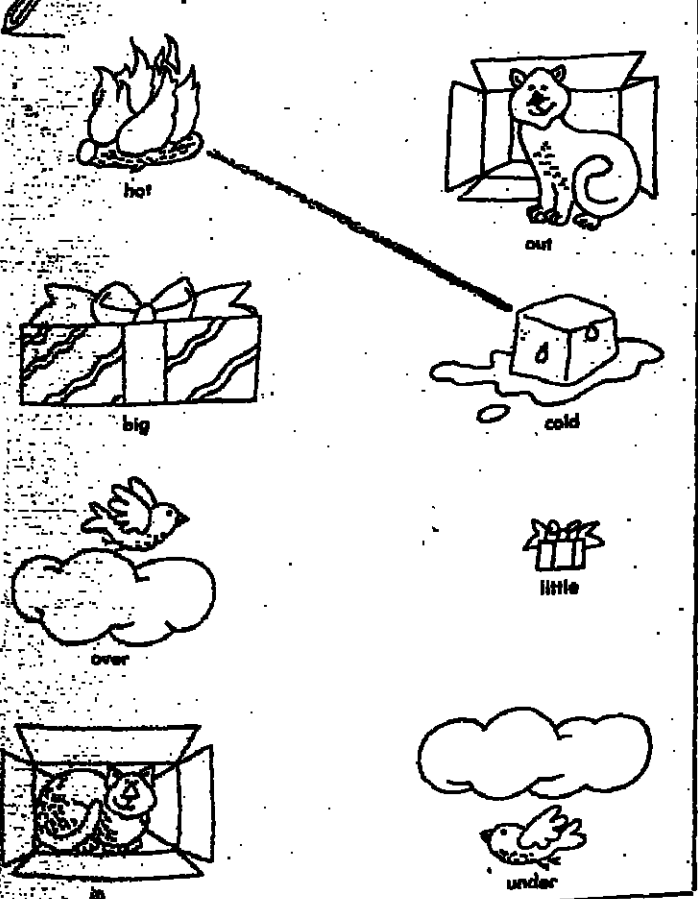
G F I N E P P E P H H S T L Y
L L B C R N E A T A S M E H V
E L A E U E H T A E O I T D T
M U T M A T R I L M P L D O R
M T G R O U E Y K E A E C O I
Y R P O E U T C S E V K L G M
H E M F V S R I H U Y S E P T
E S M R A H C H F Z V G A U E
S R D O U T V C Z U K E N C P
I L U H S R I A F Y L E A L L
O E A L K D N F O E S R M A P
P E T E L S N O G R G S E R E
O E E S P A D A P P E R A P T
I L R G A P N E H T C H A L M
S L E T K T A D R E S S Y U C

Colouring time



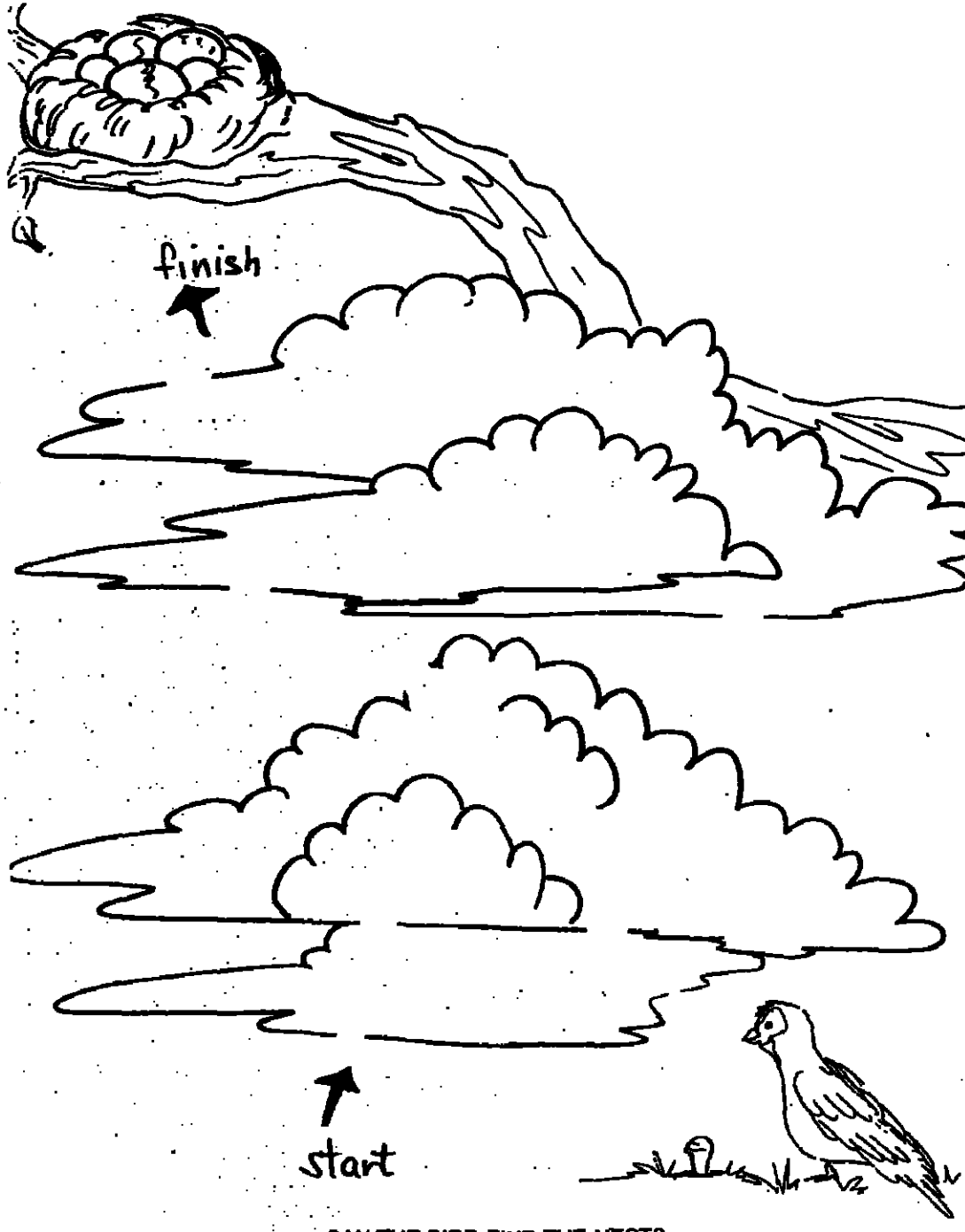
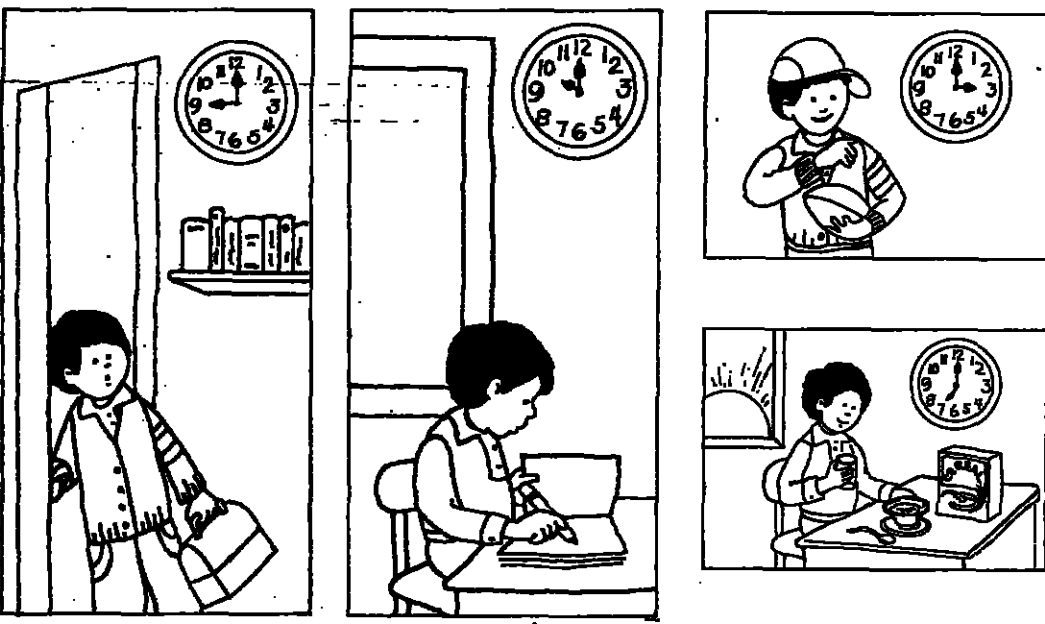
Opposites

Find the pictures that are opposites. Draw a line.



What comes after?

Look at the large pictures below. Draw a circle around the small picture which shows what comes after the other pictures. Colour all the pictures.



CAN THE BIRD FIND THE NEST?

Poem column

Katy Katy

Katy Katy
What have you done,
I've searched the cellar,
and only found one?

It followed me up,
it did it did,
when I saw the light,
I'm sure it hid.

Katy Katy,
you said I had two,
but I only found one,
I don't believe you.

It was stuck to my feet,
as I climbed up a ladder,
oh mercy me,
I've only one shadow.

Julie Hodgson

When I was little

When I was little
mud pies were great
slapping it on a toy plas-
tic plate,
hiding when mum
shouts up the path,
"In you lot come it's
time for a bath."

By Julie Hodgson

When I was little
I always heard
eat up your greens
not just a third
pull up your socks
don't be ashamed
now I'm a mum
I say just the same.

By Julie Hodgson

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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Lendl and Edberg score easy wins

Becker struggles past Gilbert

NEW YORK, Nov 29, (Reuters): Defending champion Boris Becker struggled past old nemesis Brad Gilbert 2-6 6-3 6-4 yesterday, the opening night of the season-ending Masters tennis tournament.

"It was an exhausting match. I'm glad I won it," said the second-ranked West German after the nearly three-hour battle.

Earlier yesterday, five-time Masters champion Ivan Lendl and third-ranked Swede Stefan Edberg crushed to easy victories in their opening round-robin matches.

World number one Lendl avenged his French Open defeat with a 6-1 6-3 win over 17-year-old American Michael Chang.

Chang, the French Open champion who is making his Masters debut, was overpowered by Lendl, who has been to the final of this \$3.1 million event the last nine years. For most of the match, Chang could barely get his racket on Lendl's big serve.

In the opening match of the eight-player tournament, Edberg posted a 6-4 6-2 win over seventh-ranked American Andre Agassi.

"There's nothing you can do



Becker: outlasts Gilbert

when someone plays like that," said Agassi, who complained of neck problems.

With his victory over Gilbert, Becker may have cleared his



Edberg: blasts Agassi

toughest hurdle on the way to the semifinals, though he must still play Edberg and Agassi — the other members of the Ilie Nastase Group. Becker had lost four

of his meetings with Gilbert. Gilbert, ironically, had dropped the first set in each of his wins over the Wimbledon and US Open champion.

The sixth-ranked American had Becker on the defensive in the opening set as Gilbert scored with passing shots while the West German struggled to find booming serve.

Becker did not have a service game without facing at least one break point until eight game of the second set when he held at 15 for 5-3.

Becker then broke Gilbert, who also was erratic on serve, to level the match.

The tense third set was a raucous affair punctuated by vocal supporters of both players in Madison Square Garden.

There were also angry exchanges between the two rivals. At one point Gilbert yelled at Becker to "shut up," when he contradicted the American, who was arguing a line call.

"I guess we don't like each other so much. We've had so many close matches that there's more emotion than necessary. There's exchanges of words, not only strokes," Becker said.

Gilbert, winner of five titles this year, came up with the first break of the final set but Becker came right back to break at love for 2-2.



Lendl: had an easy match against Chang

Baseball teams go on spending spree

NEW YORK, Nov 29, (AP): US professional baseball took another step back to the free-spending ways of the late '70s and early '80s yesterday, when Rickey Henderson and the Oakland Athletics broke the three-year contract barrier that had been in place since 1985.

Henderson agreed to stay with the World Series champions for \$12 million over four years. No club had given a contract of that length since Oct 11, 1985, when Ken Griffey and the Atlanta Braves reached a \$3 million, four-year agreement. In the interim, two arbitrators found clubs guilty of conspiring against free agents, and a third collusion grievance was filed and is pending.

Henderson's four-year con-

tract came less than 24 hours after Barry Bonds, accused by the union of being one of the architects of collusion, resigned as head of the owners' player relations committee.

On the busiest day thus far in the offseason, pitcher Bryn Smith left the Montreal Expos to sign a \$6 million, three-year contract with the St. Louis Cardinals; outfielder Candy Maldonado left the San Francisco Giants to sign a \$825,000 one-year contract with the Cleveland Indians; infielder Dave Anderson left the Los Angeles Dodgers to sign a two-year contract with San Francisco, and California Angels catcher Lance Parrish was declared a "new look" free agent by George Nicolau, baseball's impartial arbitrator.

Drugs battle not moving fast enough, says expert

BONN, Nov 29, (Reuters): Sport's battle against performance-enhancing drugs is not moving fast enough and doping will remain a "problem in the 1990s," Manfred Donike, the world's foremost doping expert, said yesterday.

Donike, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) drug scientist who runs a doping-testing clinic in Cologne, said the problem of athletes abusing their bodies with drugs would not go away quickly.

"I don't think we are making progress fast enough," Donike told a West German news agency. "We are going to be dealing intensively with this problem in the 1990s."

More scientific research was needed to stop athletes reaching for pill packets and needles in the belief they could transform them into sporting stars, he added.

"I don't think anabolic steroids are any use in top-class sport," Donike said. "What is important is the psychogenetic (psychological) aspect that may enable an athlete to train for five hours a day instead of three."

"The dangers are obvious. Anabolics reduce the body's normal hormone production and confuse the body's hormone system."

Donike also said the popular belief in many locker rooms that the male hormone testosterone helped athletes recover more quickly from injury was wrong.

"It has been scientifically proved that testosterone does not accelerate the healing process. It has no effect whatsoever," he said in the interview. "But medicine's pundits of drug substitutes keep preaching it... we have to do more tests to find out the side-effects of anabolics and how common they are... too little scientific work is done in sports medicine."

A worldwide debate on drugs was sparked by the disqualification of Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson after he tested positive at the 1988 Seoul Olympics and admitted he had been taking drugs for several years.

According to Donike, several countries have made progress since Seoul with new anti-doping measures. He said he did not expect any positive dope tests at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona.

Lillehammer Olympics could be relinquished

OSLO, Nov 29, (Reuters): A top Norwegian organizer of the 1994 Lillehammer Winter Olympics said yesterday that Games could be relinquished if some events were switched to venues far from the city in a bid to hold down ballooning costs.

Lillehammer Mayor Audun Tron, a vice-president of the Games organizing committee, rejected proposals by some politicians to use existing installations, like the Holmenkollen ski jump outside Oslo, to save cash.

It is Lillehammer which has the contract with the IOC (International Olympic Committee) to hold the 1994 Games. We can come close to the point where we can give up that contract," Tron told the Aftenposten newspaper.

He added: "Let me also stress that I don't believe that will happen."

Several hundred people marched through the streets of Lillehammer last evening, calling for the Games to be held as planned around the city.

An estimate last week, apparently leaked by the organizers, showed the 1994 Games would cost 7.7 billion crowns (\$1.1 billion), around three times the original figure, touching off a row over how to cut spending.

The state has given a guarantee for 1.8 billion crowns (\$260 million) of the costs. Officials say this will not be drastically raised.

Arne Myrnes, vice-president of the Norwegian Olympic Committee, told state radio that "to cancel the Games would be both unrealistic and undesirable," but Erik Solheim, leader of the Socialist left party which has 17 seats in the 165-member parliament, said Norway should consider giving up the Games if the costs were too high.

In an interview with Verdens Gang newspaper he noted a precedent as the 1976 Games were switched to Innsbruck, Austria, from Denver, Colorado.

Tron told state television's evening news that building the main facilities, like a bobsleigh run and Olympic accommodation, would be as cheap in Lillehammer as anywhere else in Norway.

Jansher takes Eyles to task

THE HAGUE, Nov 29, (Reuters): Pakistan's Jansher Khan, the world's top player, crashed 11th seeded Australian Rodney Eyles 15-9 15-13 15-6 yesterday to reach the final of the Dutch Open squash tournament.

Jansher, who is taking a break from squash in December, was never extended by Eyles who had beaten third-seeded compatriot Rodney Martin on his way to the semifinals.

Top seed Jansher will now meet the winner of semifinal between fourth-seeded Australian Chris Robertson and England's Bryn Beeson, who is unseeded.

The first women's semifinals was a much tougher affair with England's Alison Cummings beating Ireland's Rebecca Best 6-15 10-4 15-11. This evening's second semifinal pitted seeded Susanne Horner against English compatriot Anna Greaves, seeded eight.

Cantona: France's enfant terrible

PARIS, Nov 29, (Reuters): Eric Cantona is a soccer player who paints, plays the violin, practices yoga and scores goals, not necessarily in that order.

He probably possesses the greatest natural talent among the post-Platini generation in France.

But he is most certainly not the paragon of tranquillity his off-the-field pursuits suggest. In little more than a year, Cantona has become the most terrible of French soccer's enfants terribles.

Transferred three times and disciplined twice for striking team mates, Cantona was suspended from his club for throwing his shirt at a referee and banned from the national team for vilifying the trainer.

More articulate with his feet — and with his fists — than with his mouth, Cantona wears a permanently sombre expression which bears the imprint of an apparently troubled soul.

In many ways, he is a soccer James Dean of the 1980. "I have nothing in common with people in the world of football," he said when he won his first cap two years ago at the age of 21. "They disgust me."

If the rebel has still not found his cause, he has at least found his champion — no less than Michel

Platini himself, France's greatest ever player and national team chief.

Platini, who should recognise an extravagant talent when he sets it, has forgiven Cantona his past transgressions and given him a permanent place up front in the French team.

"Eric is a player of talent and character," he said when he recalled him this season after a year's suspension for his crude insult on predecessor Henri Michel. "The French team needs players of character. Besides, he's changed."

Cantona repaid Platini on the pitch with three goals in his first three games but did not live up to the generous assessment of his personality.

In October, a new Cantona affair became the cause celebre of the French media when his latest club, Montpellier, suspended him for punching team mate Jean-Claude Lemoult after a 1-0 defeat in Lille.

Club president Louis Nicollin, who witnessed the incident, vowed that Cantona would never play for his team again. Ironically, Lemoult warmly welcomed Cantona at the time of his transfer from Bordeaux in the close season. "The stories about him are exaggerated," he had

said. "He's much misunderstood."

Montpellier were the third club to find Cantona too hot to handle in a year. Marseille signed him from Auxerre in the summer of 1988 for a domestic record fee of 22 million francs (\$3.5 million).

At Auxerre, Cantona benefited from the small-town atmosphere and authoritative approach of trainer Guy Roux although he did find himself in a spot of bother once for striking colleague Bruno Martini, the French national side's reserve keeper.

But in the big port of Marseille, his native city, Cantona was more exposed and subjected to far more pressure. His fuse did not take long to blow.

Booted by fans in a charity match in northern France, he stormed off the field throwing his shirt at the referee and landed up in hot water with uncompromising boss Bernard Tapie.

The millionaire president was less than amused to see the Marseille shirt treated with such contempt and loaned him out to Bordeaux, where Cantona proved a huge flop.

In his first match, he tried an outrageous gamble and lost.

Bordeaux drew with Second Division Beauvais in the Cup and Cantona was called on to take a vital penalty in the shoot-out.

Perhaps deluded by the wealth of praise heaped on him for his obvious considerable skills, Cantona decided to try to imitate the subtle "soft" penalty with which Anton Panenka won the European Championship for Czechoslovakia against West Germany in 1976.

Panenka had rightly reasoned that as the keeper was bound to commit himself to dive to one side, a disguised soft shot in the centre would succeed. But the ruse did not fool the Beauvais goalkeeper and Bordeaux crashed out.

Bordeaux dumped Cantona in the summer and the player went, again on loan, to Montpellier to team up with close friend Stephane Paille, with whom he had formed an impressive striking partnership when France won the European under-21 title in 1988.

But the much-vaunted duo failed to flourish as Montpellier floundered. In the end it was Paille who left first, transferred to Bordeaux after asking for a move when he was left out of the first team earlier this month.

Liverpool return to stadium of death

LONDON, Nov 29, (Reuters): Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish yesterday pleaded for a dignified return to Hillsborough stadium when they take on Sheffield Wednesday in an English League game late this evening.

Liverpool return there for the first time since the tragedy last April when 95 spectators were crushed to death at a Football Association cup semifinal with Nottingham Forest.

Dalglish said: "If Liverpool as a club can conduct themselves in the same dignified manner as the aftermath, then no-one can have any

complaints."

Liverpool, the police and local authorities are appealing for fans without tickets not to travel to Hillsborough.

The Leppings Lane end, the scene of the tragedy caused when a mass of spectators surged onto the packed terraces through a gate opened to relieve pressure outside, will remain closed.

A team of social workers will be standing by to administer aid to supporters who become distressed, and a Sheffield police chief pleaded for careful handling from his officers.

Celtic allow Aitken move

GLASGOW, Nov 29, (Reuters): Glasgow Celtic yesterday reluctantly agreed to allow their Scottish soccer international Roy Aitken to leave the club.

Aitken submitted a written transfer request recently after claiming he was the victim of a media vendetta and that his family had been affected by adverse publicity.

Billy McNeill, manager of the Scottish Premier League side, spent two weeks trying to convince his captain to stay, but yesterday he said: "I have been unable to dissuade Roy from the course he has chosen."

Indian Veterans edge Pakistanis for Nehru Cup



Rangaswami (left) presents the trophy to Malhotra

INDIAN Veterans beat Pakistani Veterans on the last ball of their Nehru Cup match to lift the trophy at the K.C.L. Ground recently. The match, which was held in connection with the Nehru Centenary, was sponsored by the Kuwait India International Exchange.

Pakistani Veteran's skipper, Ashraf Khan decided to bat first after beating his counterpart B.N. Malhotra on the spin of the coin. Pakistani Veterans managed to score 149 in the 23 allotted overs with Chaudhry Javed hitting 33

runs. The India Veterans batted cautiously and built their innings slowly with S.S.N. Gangu (30) leading the way. In the last over, the Indians needed eight runs to win. With five runs coming off the first five balls, the Indians still needed three runs off the last delivery.

Ahmed Hussain bowled the last ball to M.M. Joshi, who just managed to keep it away but the Pakistani Veterans' fielder, Nisar, made an overthrow to the keeper resulting in three runs and vic-



The victorious squad with prominent guests and other officials

tory for the Indian side.

The Pakistani Veterans had the Pakistani Ambassador to Kuwait Zahid Saeed in their squad while the Indian Ambassador A.K. Bhudiraja and the Sri Lankan Ambassador L. Shariffuddin witnessed the game.

After the match, the managing director of KIEEC Rangaswami gave away the Nehru Cup to Malhotra while the wives of the Indian and Pakistani ambassadors gave away the individual prizes.

S.S.N. Gangu took the Best Batsman award while T.K. Behram and Haji Sarfaraz got the Best Bowler awards.

The president of the Kuwait Cricket League Sajid Rizvi and P.K. Merwah were praised for their efforts in organizing the match. Sajid Rizvi, while thanking all the participants and guests, announced that a similar match would be held in the near future for the 'Bhutto Trophy'. He added that the date for this event would be announced shortly.

Public's perception of track wrong, says Lewis

WASHINGTON, Nov 29, (AP): Carl Lewis thinks the public's perception of track and field is erroneous, and the best way to correct the misconception is to rid the sport of drug users.

"The public thinks everybody is on drugs," the six-time Olympic gold medalist said yesterday before the law and legislation committee of the Athletics Congress, the US governing body for the sport.

"Everyone is guilty until proven innocent. You're putting the athletes on the defensive."

To switch from a defensive mode to an offensive posture, track and field has to clean up its act, Lewis said.

Track and field authorities should focus on catching athletes who use strong performance-enhancing drugs, Lewis said, and he reiterated a call for an independent agency to administer tests.

Joining him before the committee was Joe Douglas, his financial adviser and coach of the Santa Monica Track Club for which Lewis competes. Lewis said it was "totally wrong" for an athlete like marathoner Jeff Scuffins to be suspended by TAC for three months after testing positive for ephedrine, a medicinal stimulant, in the April 30 New Jersey Waterfront Marathon.

Scuffins' penalty was determined Monday by TAC's board of directors. The suspension cost him the \$9,000 he would have received for finishing sixth overall and being the fourth US finisher in the Waterfront marathon. Lewis pointed out that Britain's Linford Christie was caught for the same offense after finishing third in the 100-metre dash in the 1988 Olympics, but then was exonerated by the International Olympic Committee, which conducted the tests at the Seoul Games.

In fact, Christie was moved up to second, after Ben Johnson of Canada, the first-place finisher in a world-record 9.79 seconds, was disqualified and stripped of his gold medal. Johnson tested positive for anabolic steroids, and Lewis was given the gold medal and the world record of 9.92.

"Ben Johnson... that's the one you want to go after," Lewis said, adding that he was citing Johnson as an example but referring in general to users of his type.

Johnson admitted before a Canadian inquiry at Toronto this year that he had been using performance-enhancing drugs for seven years.

"We're not totally fighting drugs, we're fighting coverups," Lewis said. He also chastised those on heavy drugs who contend they are innocent.

"I don't see how anyone can take a drug and not know it... especially over a long-term period," Lewis said.

"I think we should focus on people wanting to enhance their performances," Douglas said, and Lewis nodded in approval. "I think masking agents are more important than catching people on medicinal drugs or cold medications."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Former captain

LONDON, Nov 29. (Reuters): Former England captain Ray Wilkins signed for Queens Park Rangers yesterday less than 24 hours after the English First Division club dismissed manager Trevor Francis, who had persuaded Wilkins to return to London.

World Cup

ROME, Nov 29. (AP): The trophy awarded to the World Cup soccer champion will be brought to the site of the 1990 finals this weekend by the president of the Argentine federation, tournament organizers said yesterday.

NBA games

NEW YORK, Nov 29. (Reuters): Results of National Basketball Association (NBA) games played yesterday:

Cleveland	92	Washington	91
Orlando	104	Miami	99
Chicago	113	Atlanta	96
Houston	110	L.A. Lakers	104
San Antonio	117	Seattle	104
Denver	141	Golden State	120
Portland	116	L.A. Clippers	84
Detroit	93	Sacramento	81

Rous Cup

LONDON, Nov 29. (Reuters): Uruguay have accepted an invitation to face England at Wembley next May, just three weeks before the World Cup finals in Italy. England have also invited world champions Argentina to participate in the three-nation Rous Cup tournament.

Positive test

EAST BERLIN, Nov 29. (Reuters): An East German woman bodybuilder tested positive for anabolic steroids during a routine drug check before an event in Bulgaria, the sports daily Sportliche reported today. It said East Berlin-based Ellen Tetschke was given the chance to repeat the urine test twice more, last Friday and Monday, but failed to turn up.

BRIDGE

RESULTS of bridge game held on Tuesday at Regency Hotel:

N/S:
1. Dr. Zaid & Qatana
2. Tab & Sherin
3. Farahs
E/W:
1. Dr. Reddy & Latala
2. D'Souza & D. Pereira
3. Boukhria & Steiner and Duailj & Drexler



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Romanian gymnast seeks political asylum

Comaneci flees to Hungary

BUDAPEST, Nov 29. (Reuters): Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci, star of the Montreal Olympics who stunned the world with the first perfect 10 score, has fled to Hungary, the Hungarian Interior Ministry said today.

Comaneci, 28, and six other Romanians crossed the border between Romania and Hungary near the southeast Hungarian village of Mezogyan yesterday, spokesman Andras Kovari told Reuters.

Hungarian Radio said Comaneci was seeking political asylum, but the Interior Ministry was unable to confirm the report. The Romanian champion blasted into limelight at the 1975 European Championships, where she won gold medals in all gymnastic disciplines except the floor exercises.

At the Olympic Games in Montreal a year later, at the age of 14, she became the first gymnast to obtain a perfect 10 score on her way to winning the prestigious all-around gold medal.

Seven times over five days of competition she was awarded maximum points and walked off with a total of three golds.

Comaneci won a record three successive European Championships and went on to win two more gold and two silver medals at the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

She told Hungarian border guards their trip was planned in advance and they were guided through the border by a Romanian man, the radio reported.

Tens of thousands of Romanians unhappy with life under President Nicolae Ceausescu and inspired by political reforms over the border, have fled to Hungary in the past two years.

Comaneci, who retired from competition after the 1981 University Games, said she left behind a furnished flat, a car and



Comaneci performing during a tournament in 1979.

financial security for the sake of freedom, Hungarian radio said.

She said she had been refused permission to accept offers to work in the West as a coach or to travel to the West for any reason. Recently she was denied permission to visit Hungary, one of Romania's Warsaw Pact allies.

The radio was reporting from the southern city of Szeged, near a camp for Romanian refugees at Bekescsaba, but the camp told Reuters she had not arrived there and her whereabouts were not known.

Kovari said she would receive no special treatment.

Hungary this month granted

political asylum to a Soviet citizen and a Bulgarian in what diplomats believe were the first examples of one Warsaw Pact country giving shelter to citizens from another.

Robert Forgacs, general secretary of the Hungarian Gymnastic Federation, said his organisation would offer help to Comaneci if she went to Budapest.

"It is natural that we would help her as soon as she arrives," he told Reuters.

The four foot 11 inches (1.49 metres) tall Comaneci endeared herself to the army of journalists who besieged her after her Mon-

teal triumph when, asked what her greatest wish was, she replied: "I want to go home."

She later wrote an autobiography, completed her studies in physical education at Bucharest University and became an international gymnastics judge.

Nadia Elena Comaneci was born on Nov 12, 1961, in the Moldavian town of Gheorghiu-Dej in Eastern Romania.

The daughter of a car mechanic and an office worker, she showed tireless capacity for jumping and somersaulting which led her mother to enrol the six-year-old in a gymnastics

class.

Just one year later she was spotted at a gymnastics talent trial at her school by the husband-and-wife coaching team of Marta and Bela Karolyi.

They took over Nadia's class to convince the Romanian sports authorities of their then revolutionary theory that good results could be achieved with young gymnasts below the age of 12.

Under their strict coaching, Nadia began devoting some four hours a day to gymnastics and five to schoolwork.

At the age of nine she won all five gold medals at the Romanian Federation Cup. She made her international gymnastics debut at a contest in Poland in 1971 where she won critical acclaim for her unusual sureness and agility.

Her rise was meteoric and by 1975 she was firmly established on the Romanian national team, when she caused a sensation at the European Championships by defeating the reigning world champion, Ludmila Turishcheva of the Soviet Union.

The technical purity of her performance was her most brilliant characteristic, her coaches said of her. Physically she had great strength, speed and flexibility. Mentally she had intelligence and phenomenal powers of concentration and courage.

Nadia transformed gymnastics with her European Championship and Olympic victories and the sport became the domain of teenage girls with light supple bodies who could outclass mature women like Turishcheva.

The Soviet Union, which did not allow girls under 14 to compete, were caught off balance and lost their traditional domination of the sport for many years.



Basyouni (right) receives his award.

Basyouni triumphs

SHERIN Basyouni took the Best Player award recently after finishing with the maximum number of points in the Westminster System - 17 sponsored Regency Bridge Club games over the period July 1 to Oct 31.

Ahmed Hneidi took second place while Narendra Shah finished third. Nahil Akel took the fourth position while Adel Bayoumi was fifth, Ahmed Taweeel sixth, Bianca Moussali seventh, Amir Abedin eighth, Dhruba Mukherjee ninth and Leila Merabi tenth.

The end of the 2nd Westminster System - 17 tournament was also held on the same day. The results were as follows:

N/S
1. Salman Ali & Walkiewicz

2. Bianca Moussali & Ahmed Taweeel
3. Ahmed Hneidi & Mohammed El Baz
4. K.T. Simon & Ray Choudhry E/W
1. Dhruba Mukherjee & Ravi Bhatt
2. Shankar Reddy & J. Gajjar
3. Lollo Murthwaite & Dana Materny
4. Amir Abedin & Jaggi

The award for the best ladies pair was taken by Jamila Akel and Rabea Abboushi while Rima and Foad Farah took the prizes for the best mixed pair.

The prizes were presented by Raja Khairallah.

The games were directed by Nahil Akel.



Salman Ali, Walkiewicz, Saud Al Saleh and Sultan Ali during their game.

Mathew, Varghese outlast opponents

MATHEW N.C. reached the semifinals of the Kuwait Open Badminton Championships on Tuesday evening with a 15-6 15-5 victory over Reji Joseph at the KOC Sports Centre in Ahmedi.

Mathew will now meet Saji Varghese, who overcame Siva Kumar 18-13 15-8 in his quarterfinal match. In the other half of the draw, defending champion Faiz Mohyuddin set up a semifinal clash with George Joseph.

Faiz moved into the semifinals in the same way he has been moving from one round to the next - without facing an opponent. His Tuesday evening's opponent, P. Cherian, also

decided to give a walkover to the defending champion.

George Joseph, on the other hand, had to work hard to beat C. George 15-6 15-9.

Other results

Gents doubles:
V. Joseph & K. Thomas beat P.D. Chacko & R. Soqueira (10,15) (15,11)
Mathew N.C. & S. Kumar beat L. Goncalves & G. Joseph (18,17) (6,15) (15,2)
R. D'Silva & S. Varghese beat R. Joseph & C. George (15,9) (17,16)
J. Hussain & M. Sadiq beat S. Thomas & R. Varghese (15,9) (15,11)
Ladies singles:
M. Haseman beat R. Tharion (w/o)
G. Anthony beat A. Kutty (11,5) (8,11)

(11,5)
S. Varghese beat L. Mundy (11,0) (11,2)
R. John beat H. Partridge (11,0) (11,0)

Ladies doubles:
M. Haseman & K. Taylor beat M. Trumpf & H. Partridge (15,3) (11,5)
R. Tharion & S. Varghese beat L. Mundy & J. Young (15,1) (15,4)

Mixed doubles:
F. Mohyuddin & R. John beat C. Haseman & K. Taylor (15,2) (15,8)
V. Joseph & S. Varghese beat M. Haseman & J. Taylor (15,5) (7,15) (15,9)
C. George & G. Anthony beat H. Hussain & J. Gress (15,2) (15,2)
Today's matches (Final)
Ladies singles 4.00pm
M. Haseman or G. Anthony vs S.

Varghese or R. John
Gents single 4.30pm
F. Mohyuddin or G. Joseph vs S. Varghese or Mathew N.C.

Ladies doubles 5.00pm
V. Kutty & A. Kutty or M. Haseman & K. Taylor vs R. Tharion & S. Varghese or R. John & G. Anthony

Gents double 5.30pm
V. Joseph & K. Thomas or Mathew N.C. & S. Kumar vs R. D'Silva & S. Varghese or J. Hussain & M. Sadiq
Mixed double 6.00pm
F. Mohyuddin & R. John or A.M. Ghaz & L. Mundy vs V. Joseph & S. Varghese or C. George & G. Anthony

Top player

LONDON, Nov 29. (Reuters): Rudi Gullit, a key figure in the Netherlands' successful World Cup qualifying campaign and AC Milan's 1989 European Cup triumph, was voted World Footballer of the Year by the London-based monthly magazine World Soccer.

With Milan being voted Team of the Year and their coach Arrigo Sacchi taking the Manager of the Year title, it was the first time that one club had scooped all three awards.

Gullit also won the award in 1987.



Director Nahil (centre), Khairallah (right) and Ahmed Taweeel.

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